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THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION

Quarterly Record.

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PRICE TWOPENCE.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The Committee desire to express their grateful thanks to Mrs. Clement Ritchie, for 23 flannel garments; to Mrs. Johnston, for parcel of clothes for Holiday Home No. 1; to Miss Cornish for some toys and dolls, etc.; to A Lady, per "The Graphic," for some children's clothing; to Mrs. Holroyd, for a parcel of worn garments; to Miss Newman, for a small parcel of clothes; to Anonymous, for a parcel of old clothes; to Mrs. Ditmas, for clothes and parcel of odds and ends; to Miss Geddes, for some new and worn clothing; and to a Friend at Sidcup for parcel of clothes and boots.

LETTERS FOR HOSPITALS AND CONVALESCENT HOMES.

Kind friends sometimes send Hospital and Convalescent Home Letters to us. They are very useful, and the Superintendents of the local Ragged Schools constantly make application for them. We shall be most grateful for letters for the following:—Brompton Consumption Hospital, City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, King's College Hospital, East London Hospital for Women, and London Hospital; also for the **Surgical Aid Society, Truss Society,** and for any **Convalescent Homes.**

SCHOLARS' PRIZES.

CHRISTMAS, 1887.

The Committee of the Ragged School Union have again decided to award Prizes to Scholars for keeping situations for twelve months and upwards to Christmas, 1887.

Large Bills, containing the Rules (for affixing on Schoolroom walls) will be issued and sent to the affiliated Schools and Missions early in October. Special attention will be needed with these rules this year, as the Committee have under consideration some modifications in them. Extra copies may be had at the Offices.

The APPLICATION FORMS will be ready early in DECEMBER, and should be applied for at the OFFICE, EXETER HALL, W.C.

DAYS OF SPECIAL PRAYER.

The days fixed for *United Universal Prayer on behalf of Sunday Schools* are Sunday, October 16th, and Monday, the 17th. The Committee of the Ragged School Union earnestly plead for united petition for the Divine blessing to be poured forth upon all efforts to win the Young to Christ, and trust that meetings will be held for this purpose in all the affiliated Ragged Schools and Missions.

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CONSUMPTION

AND ALL LUNG DISEASES.

By G. T. CONGREVE, *Coombe Lodge, Peckham.*

The Nature, Progress, and True Treatment of this Scourge of England.

The following Cases are selected from the TWENTY-SECOND SERIES:—

"ADVANCED CONSUMPTION."—A YOUNG LADY of B——, IN SUSSEX—also HER SISTER.

The father of this young lady, writing me May 14th, requests me not, for special private reasons, to publish his name, but he adds:—"You are at liberty to show this letter to anyone, and you may refer any person privately to me."

"My daughter, 16 years of age, was very, very ill. Her symptoms—an exceedingly bad cough, expectoration mixed with blood, great pains in her sides, and weakness so that she could scarcely stand. Dr. J., her medical attendant, said *he could do no more for her—she must die.* An old patient of yours earnestly recommended your treatment. I followed the advice you sent me, and she persevered for nearly two years. Her recovery was so unlooked for that everyone who knew her was amazed. She has since married.

"A sister of hers in business at Manchester was taken ill there, had medical advice there, also at Torquay, where she was ordered, and since then was under one of the surgeons at Brompton Hospital, but got gradually worse the whole time, and came home last year in a pitiable state. She is now wonderfully better under your treatment, and in a fair way to recovery.

"My gratitude is due to you under God.—Yours faithfully, S."

RECENT LETTER from an OLD CORRESPONDENT—Mr. C. CLARKE, Steam Printing Works, Hayward's Heath, Sussex.

(In a former letter Mr. Clarke says:—"You remember I wrote you on behalf of Miss L.M. Her own doctor gave her no relief, nor did she meet with any at the Brighton Hospital *With your treatment I am happy to say it was altogether different.* She felt relieved from the first dose, and kept mending until well.")

The particulars of the case to which Mr. Clarke refers, are as follows, and are taken from the statement-sheet now before me:—"Consumption in the family. First symptoms extreme weakness, with fainting fits, followed by diarrhœa and copious yellow expectoration, and spitting of blood. Breathing short, hot flushes, palpitations, and gradual loss of flesh. Had been to the Sussex County Hospital at Brighton. Blistering and other treatment had proved of no avail. Evidently getting worse, day by day."

The patient recovered, and Mr. Clarke describes it as A MARVELLOUS CURE.

In the same letter Mr. C. speaks of the case of MRS. SMITH, of SOUTH ROAD, HAYWARD'S HEATH:—"Mrs. Smith was also given up by her doctor after long treatment as an *incurable case of Consumption*, but she has quite recovered under you."

In the LAST LETTER above referred to, dated May 14th, 1887, Mr. CLARKE says:—"As to the two cases of Consumption I reported to you the subjects are well. The case of Mrs. Smith was a most wonderful cure. *She was given up by clever doctors, and told there was no hope for her.* There seemed only a step between her and the grave. She was so weak and wasted, and could not walk. But she rapidly recovered under your treatment, has since had [a child, and is *now as hearty a person as one would wish to see.*

"SAVED from an EARLY GRAVE."—TESTIMONY OF Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

This gentleman writing me, July 19th, 1887, says:—"I thank my Heavenly Father for saving me from an early grave by your advice and medicine. Four doctors before that could do nothing for me. One said I should die in three months.

"You may use my name when and where you wish.—SAMUEL CUNNINGHAM, 69, Dover-street, Belfast."

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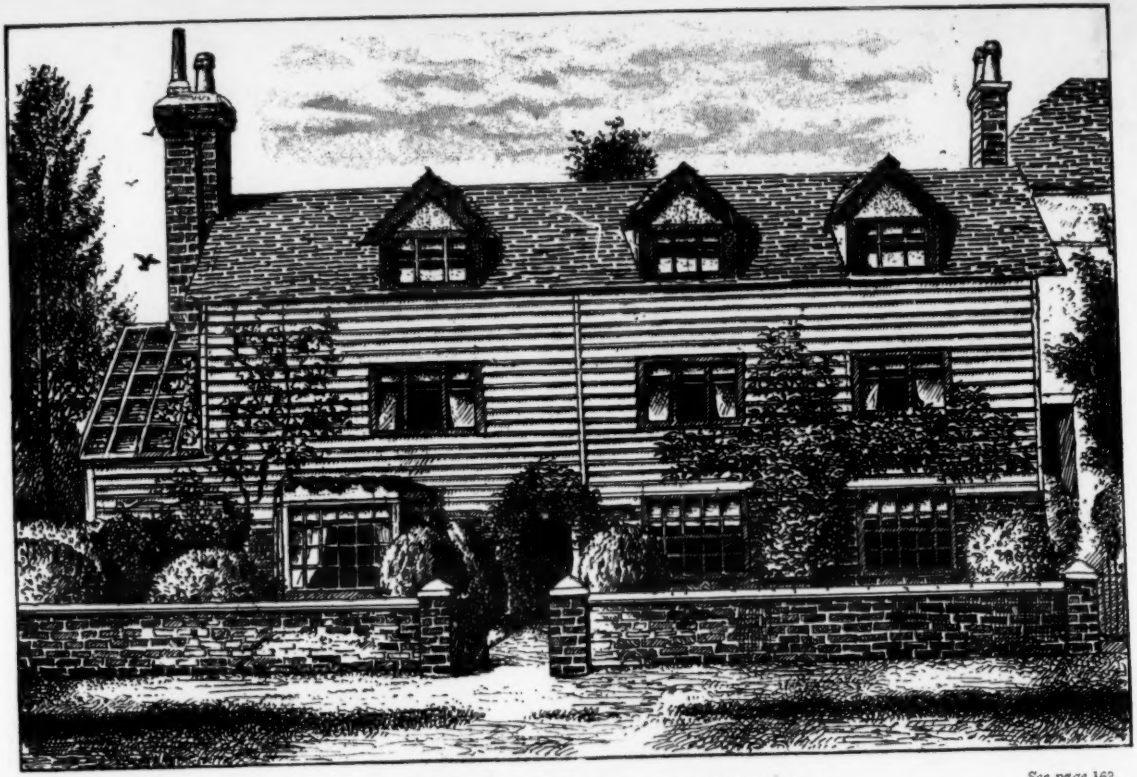
References are kindly permitted to be made to the Secretaries of the Ragged School Union and the Temperance League.



THE HOLIDAY HOME AT BRENCHLEY.

See page 163.

See page 163.

THE HOLIDAY HOME AT BRENCHLEY.

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION QUARTERLY RECORD.

OCTOBER, 1887.

REFLECTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS.

At the present time so many thoughtful and philanthropic minds are exercised on social questions, that one feels encouraged to hope, if not believe, that eventually a solution of some of the more difficult problems of the day will be arrived at. In the meantime, let it not be forgotten that our hope of the future lies with the young, and it is the glory of the age that there is a general recognition of the duty of educating the children of the poor. But it is not merely a knowledge of the three R's and a smattering of geography, history, and grammar that are required, for all these may be taught in a very mechanical way and the mind be unvivified. The great art lies in drawing out the faculties, so as to make children observant and reflective, and a wise teacher will turn any subject to account in this direction. Great mischief results to impulsive and unreflecting persons, who, like straws on a stream, are carried hither and thither, and, instead of controlling, are the mere creatures of circumstances. During the last fifty years the ameliorative influences at work have shown themselves in the removal of gross ignorance, the diminution especially of juvenile crime, the drawing together of classes, and the recognition of a common humanity; and in this beneficent work the Ragged School Union has played an important part. It is important that the young people whose home is in the streets should be saved from the corrupting influences abounding there by gathering them into school and other buildings, especially in the winter evenings. In the schools

connected with this Union the young people are brought together in large numbers by evenings of entertainment, services of song, the magic lantern, games of draughts, Bands of Hope, evenings of readings and recitation, &c., and other services of a strictly religious kind. Elder boys and girls at work during the day are provided with educational classes, senior Bands of Hope, occasionally some handicraft, drawing, singing, and gymnastic exercises. Girls have, in addition to these things, Sewing Classes. The Recreative Evening Classes Association state that by next winter it is intended to have diagrams prepared for teaching the cutting-out of simple working and Sunday gowns and underlinen. These diagrams can be easily explained in a few lectures, and it will, after the explanation, be easy for the voluntary teachers to master the system and teach it clearly. No doubt some of these could be obtained for our schools. It is of great importance that the work of the Day School and the Sunday School among the children should be continued after school age, and that the rising youth should be kept in touch with men and women of intelligence and piety, persons of high character, and whose influence for good is contagious; and, happily, to some degree this is effected. A matter of serious importance here presents itself, which is the growing indifference to religion on the part of elder boys and girls. On Sunday evenings our great thoroughfares are full of boys and girls whose conduct is indicative of a state of mind out of harmony with the day. Such a state of things should awaken the attention of all Christian people. Some intermittent attempts have been made to reach them. A suggestion has been thrown out of a limited use of the lantern for throwing hymns on the sheet and a picture illustrative of some Scripture theme. The attention by this means having been agreeably enlisted, a vivid description with a brief lesson addressed to the emotional nature might then be given with advantage. The singing might be made additionally interesting by having a solo with a good chorus, the service occupying little more than an hour. An attempt in a novel direction deserves mention. On Sunday afternoons, in the neighbourhood of schools situated out of the public way, big lads may be found loafing about or engaged in tossing. This is bad in itself, but especially baneful for the influence it exercises on younger children. Many

such are grossly ignorant even of letters. To remedy such an evil an experiment is being made by an able servant of Christ for the East of London. This is what he says:—"We are trying to reach the big lads hanging about the corners and who are in all sorts of mischief. It occurred to us to try the following. Invite a dozen of them to tea on Sunday afternoon at five o'clock, and after tea, until seven o'clock, to instruct them in writing and reading, making the Bible, of course, the text. We began with eleven. Last Sunday I invited thirty, and twenty-one came in; and this week am selecting a batch of twelve for next Sunday. And the beauty of it is," he is able to add, "some of my helpers (young men) are helping me right well, and so far we feel very well pleased." In the North of London, during the winter, to gather in the children and young people, coffee and bread-and-butter, on certain nights, are given as an attraction and as a reward; and in the East of London, largely an Irish quarter, on the Sunday night, a large gathering of very poor children is collected, and at the close of the school cocoa and biscuits are given.

The following letter, as a forecast of winter work, will be read with interest:—

"37, Highbury Hill, Highbury, N.
"Sept. 14, 1887.

"My dear Mr. Curtis,—Your request has just been forwarded to me by Mr. Lewis, and I hasten with pleasure to tell you that we are entering on our third session with as much gusto and prospect of success as when we first started. The Swimming Club, and the Senior and Junior Cricket Clubs, are about to close now that the Institute itself is opening. In addition to the Bible Class, which has been well sustained right through the summer, we are now opening our Gymnasium, Library, and Reading Room, and the prospects of our recently formed Debating Society are golden. Our Drum, Fife, and Bugle Band has just had a complete outfit, and they look uncommonly smart in their new uniform. We should be only too glad to help you, because we have not forgotten, nor are we unmindful of, the way in which your Society so generously help us. Our Band is just helping in the Temperance movement at Highbury now.

"Then, of course, our Chess Class will commence playing its matches with other societies. Shorthand and Fretwork, with the Drawing Class as well, will be continued as during last session, besides which we are organising fortnightly entertainments right through the session. Reading and Elocution, writing and Arithmetic Classes, we intend including in our programme. So you see that what with one thing and another, we are not allowing the grass to grow beneath our feet. At present I stand no chance

of rusting. We have just had a preliminary meeting, and the members have elected ten of their number to represent them on the working committee, and so we hope that, having placed so much responsibility upon their shoulders, their already lively interest may be increased tenfold.

"The Sermon Lane parent committee has decided to grant an honorarium of £10 to the gentleman who next fills the post of secretary.

"I cannot help thinking that our Father saw there was need in this neighbourhood for some such endeavour as has been put forth, and that He is carrying on this scheme, and we are permitted to work with Him. What the future of our sturdy little Institute may be I cannot tell. 'One step enough for me, I do not ask to see the distant scene.' In conclusion, let me assure you that the sympathy of all kinds we have met with from the Ragged School Union has been to us most welcome, and has encouraged us, and will continue to encourage us, to put forth still greater effort in winning the hearts of these boys and leading them onward and *upward*.

"Yours very truly, HERBERT T. GEORGE."

WEST GREENWICH RAGGED SCHOOL.

MEMORIAL STONE LAYING.

AN interesting ceremony took place recently at the new building for the West Greenwich Ragged School and Working Lads' Institute in Bridge Street, Greenwich, on the occasion of laying

three memorial stones by Mrs. Pierson, Sir Spencer Maryon-Wilson, Bart., and A. Young, Esq., respectively. The work is being carried on at temporary premises during rebuilding on the site of the old schools. When complete, which it is expected will be about November next, they will consist of a reading-room, kitchen, gymnasium, and infant school. There will be a large schoolroom on the first floor, 56 feet by 22 feet, besides class-rooms; also dormitory and managerial apartments.

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. S. B. Power, presided, and the company included Messrs. John MacGregor (Rob Roy), C. McClure, H. Bluhm, H. Rivolta, Kirk, Curtis, Baynes, Holloway, W. Jones (treasurer), H. Stone, H. Morris, W. Fisher, J. W. Jordan, J. W. Pewtress. After a hymn had been sung, assisted by a number of the children, prayer being offered by Mr. C. McClure,

The Chairman said that that day was one much looked forward to by the management of those schools, one in which they were to see their old tumble-down building disappearing, and a new one beginning to occupy its place. They had in their institution a Day School, numbering about 200, and a Sunday School of 300, a Bible-class, Sunday Evening Service attended by about 200, besides a Night School, Band of Hope, Mothers' Meetings, Sewing Classes, Library, Penny Bank, &c. With a building having so many sources of usefulness opening out before them, he thought God would smile upon them in the future as He had done in the past.

The first stone was then laid by Mrs. H. C. Pierson, a bottle being placed in the cavity, containing copies of papers, treasurer's printed appeal, &c.

Mr. Jones (treasurer) said that while they wished to increase their income, they did not wish to tax anybody in connection with this work. The absolute need of a new building having been realised by the friends of the school, an appeal for funds had been made, which resulted in £1,761 being received up the present, besides £187 promised by the Corporation of the City of London, the Ragged School Union, and others. The land and houses for frontage cost £550, and a tender for £1,851 had been accepted for the new building, including gas and warming apparatus. It was estimated that £600 would amply cover all other expenses of furnishing, &c., and the committee were therefore desirous that £800 should be raised. He should be very glad if they could raise half that sum on that occasion. They did not want to mortgage the new building, or as a friend put it plainly, "pawn their new home." The work had been supported by all branches of Christian workers; they were not confined to any one body.

The Chairman said they would be glad to hear that Sir Spencer Maryon-Wilson had just written them a cheque for £50.

Sir Spencer Maryon-Wilson laid the second stone and said it gave him great pleasure to be present and join in that great work. A better or more noble one it would be impossible to conceive. In all large towns like Greenwich there were immense bodies of children at the bottom of the ladder of life, and at the bottom they must remain; and it was their duty to help them get up the ladder of life. He declared the stone well and truly laid.

A. Young, Esq., who had come from Liverpool for the ceremony, laid the third stone, and spoke very highly of the work that had hitherto been done by the Institution.

Messrs. Kirk and Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, gave a few instances of the great need for the continuation of Ragged School work, and their being liberally supported. The daily instruction in Scripture formed the minds of the children, and thousands had illustrated the blessing.

Mr. H. Rivolta, in speaking of the work of such institutes, said if he had to start life over again he should prefer attending a Ragged School, where such Christian help, sympathy, and love were shown. As he came down the street he could not but be struck with the great need for the continuation of this work, in such a centre as Greenwich.

A presentation of the trowel with which the stones were laid was then made by the chairman to Mrs. Pierson, and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to Mr. Power for his past services to the society.

The stones were inscribed with the names of those who laid them and the date.

A collection was made during the proceedings, which realised £7 12s. 9d., making, with the other amounts contributed, £260 15s. 9d. as a result of the day's proceedings.

JUBILEE ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN.

It will be gratifying to the teachers and scholars, as well as the friends of our Schools and Missions, to learn that the Queen has been good enough to accept the Illuminated Jubilee Address, with its 30,000 signatures, a description of which appeared in our last issue.

It ought also to be gratefully recorded that, beautifully as the volume is illuminated and bound, it has not entailed any burden upon Ragged School funds, inasmuch as the wish was expressed by the

ever-generous Baroness Burdett-Coutts to bear all pecuniary liability in respect to this unique memento of the glorious reign for fifty years of the Royal Patron of the Ragged School Union. The Home Secretary writes as follows:—

"Home Office, Whitehall, 14th September, 1887.

"Sir,—I have had the honour to lay before the Queen the loyal and dutiful Address of the Teachers and Children of the Ragged Schools of London on the occasion of the completion of the Fiftieth Year of Her Majesty's Reign; and I have to inform you that Her Majesty was pleased to receive the same very graciously.

"I am at the same time to express to you Her Majesty's appreciation of the tasteful manner in which the Address is designed and illuminated, and of the handsome binding in which it is enclosed.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"Henry Matthews.

"John Kirk, Esq., Secretary,
"Ragged School Union, Exeter Hall, W.C."

VICTORIA REGINA.

The Nation's Song of Jubilee for 1887.

By P. Gabbitass, Clifton Poet (once a Carpenter Boy).

Air—"Auld Lang Syne," or "The Hardy Norseman."

Ten thousand myriad voices bring
Sweet jubilantic strains,
And make the wide world's welkin ring
With heart and soul refrains.
It is Victoria's Jubilee,
Our own loved Queen's, to-day;
Sing loud and long "The nation's song,"
The nation's tribute pay.

Chorus—Victoria Regina,
"God bless her!" we will pray;
We loved her much in "Auld Lang Syne,"
But love her more to-day!

All hail! to thee our sovereign Queen,
Thy treasured name we know,
And love it as we did of yore,
Yes—fifty years ago!

We sang thee welcome to the throne
When thy young form was seen;
Thanked heaven Victoria was our own--
Victoria, the Queen!—*Chorus.*

And now with rapture we behold
Thy year of Jubilee;
Great Britain's heart, with bliss untold,
Brings pure love strains for thee.
Thou wert the nation's Queen by choice,
As thou art ours to-day;
And we will sing, while joy-bells ring,
"God bless Victoria!"—*Chorus.*

Sing out all sweet the "Nation's song"
On India's coral strand,
Then Australasia's old and young
Join in—a loyal band;
With Canada's brave thousands sing,
And Afric's tribes, each day:
Long live Victoria!—Empress, Queen—
The loved one we obey.—*Chorus.*

Sing louder yet this sweet refrain,
Till Ireland, Scotland, Wales,
Send back their echoing notes again
To England's hills and vales;
And then the mother country's voice
Will sing as Britons may
This heart-loved chorus of our choice—
All gladsome day by day.—*Chorus.*

Then join us, all ye peoples free,
With earnest, loud acclaim,
To sing this song of Jubilee,
And spread Victoria's fame;
And with our song breathe forth this prayer--
From land or on the sea:
God bless old England's Queen for aye,
The friend of liberty.

Victoria Regina,
"God bless her!" we will pray;
We loved her much in "Auld Lang Syne,"
But love her more to-day!

HOLIDAY HOMES AND COUNTRY COTTAGES.

THE Fortnightly Holiday scheme, judging from the way it has been taken up in all directions, is likely to become one of the most extensive and blessed movements of the century. So far as Ragged Schools are concerned, it was begun some twenty years ago in a very small way, and has since gone on steadily progressing. As each successive year rolls by, the number of children from the affiliated Ragged Schools and Missions who have had the privileged benefit of a fortnight's fresh air and rest in the country increases, and the seed germ of years ago promises to become in the early future a widespread and flourishing tree. But whilst a great deal has been done for the children, something, too, has been attempted for the elder scholars, and for the poorer and needy teachers. Holiday Home No. 3, of which we have the pleasure of giving the picture, has been kept exclusively for this purpose. It is situated in the charming village of Brenchley, in the midst of the hop gardens of Kent. The cottage (*see Frontispiece*) having been offered to the Committee in July, 1886, furnished, at a peppercorn rent, was readily accepted, and opened immediately for the reception of these elder scholars and humble teachers, many of whom had never before had a prolonged stay out of London. The Home will accommodate twelve adults at a time, and since the opening there have not been wanting applicants to fill the place. During the present season no less than one hundred have enjoyed either a week or a fortnight in this delightful spot, and have returned to town at the end of their visit, feeling refreshed and invigorated for further toil. The proportion of the cost has been met by the friends themselves except in specially needy cases, when it has been entirely free of charge. The Committee have three other Homes in addition to the one at Brenchley, No. 1 being at Thursley, near Godalming; No. 2 at East Grinstead, Sussex; and No. 4 at Halstead, in Essex; this latter being a cottage most kindly lent for the present season by a staunch friend to the cause. Besides the four Homes, the Committee have used a large number of well-selected cottages at Witham, Halstead, Bushey, Chadwell Heath, Fairford, Newbury, Romford, Salisbury, Southend, and elsewhere; and up to the present no less than

FOURTEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY CHILDREN

have been sent away for a fortnight's stay in the country as against 1,100 last year; and it is hoped, if the weather prove favourable, to make additions to this large number. One of the Homes will remain open all through the winter, so as to meet any special convalescent cases who would benefit by change of air even during the

usually inclement weather. The benefits accruing from this movement are incalculable. Not only does it benefit physically and morally, but many tokens of God's favour have been graciously vouchsafed to this benevolent enterprise of ours. A humble worker in one of the South London schools came into the office a week or two ago and said, "That holiday movement of yours is a grand thing. I have reason to be glad through it and to thank God for it, I can tell you. You were good enough to send my boy to your Home at Thursley Common, and I have just had a letter from him to say that he, with several of the other boys, has given his heart to God." The results are also far-reaching and permanent, as the following letter from a lady correspondent will indicate:—

"A few weeks ago Mrs. S. had a letter from a girl named Agnes G., who had stayed with her in 1884, saying that she wanted to come and see her for her holiday, and before she had time to answer, the girl arrived. She was very clean and tidy, and is a housemaid in London, receiving £12 a year. Her mistress sent Mrs. S. 10s. for the girl's board and lodging. She stayed in Gosfield for a week, thoroughly enjoying her visit, and left saying she hoped to come again next year, she had always remembered her first visit to Gosfield with such pleasure. I find she was sent here by the Ragged School Union three years ago, when she was fourteen years of age. She always seemed a nice girl, but rather rough and unkempt, and so dirty that the whole of her clothes had to be burnt on her arrival, and we rigged her out completely. It is nice to think that she has got on and improved so much, and that she has such a pleasing memory of her time here."

This heart-cheering testimony could be multiplied tenfold. Truly, we can thank God and take courage. In thus detailing and rejoicing at the success of the fortnightly scheme, we must not lose sight of the more venerable

"Day in the Country."

It has been the custom for many long years for the Union to take one large party of some three thousand or more children for a day's outing together. This year, however, it was decided to make a change, and to give each school the option of choosing their own day, the Union undertaking to pay a proportion only of the cost. In this way some thirty schools have been assisted and subsidised, and over

Six Thousand Children

have enjoyed a day's excursion to Bushey Park, Chingford, or elsewhere. A pleasing feature of the Day in the Country movement this year

has been the extension of practical assistance by friends themselves who have invited and undertaken to entertain the children. A large-hearted lady generously invited 300 children to her charming grounds at Wimbledon; some friends at Luton undertook to cater for a hundred poor children at Harpenden, with a promise of extended pleasure in the same direction next year; and another benevolent lady and her friends found funds for a day's treat in Bushey Park for 500 of the poorest children from our streets, and best of all, brought down her friends to help in entertaining the guests. Of course, all this healthful entertainment means money. An appeal was issued in the early part of the year, to which many responded, as we are only too grateful to record, but the fund is still open, if any of our readers would like to send a kind contribution to the office.

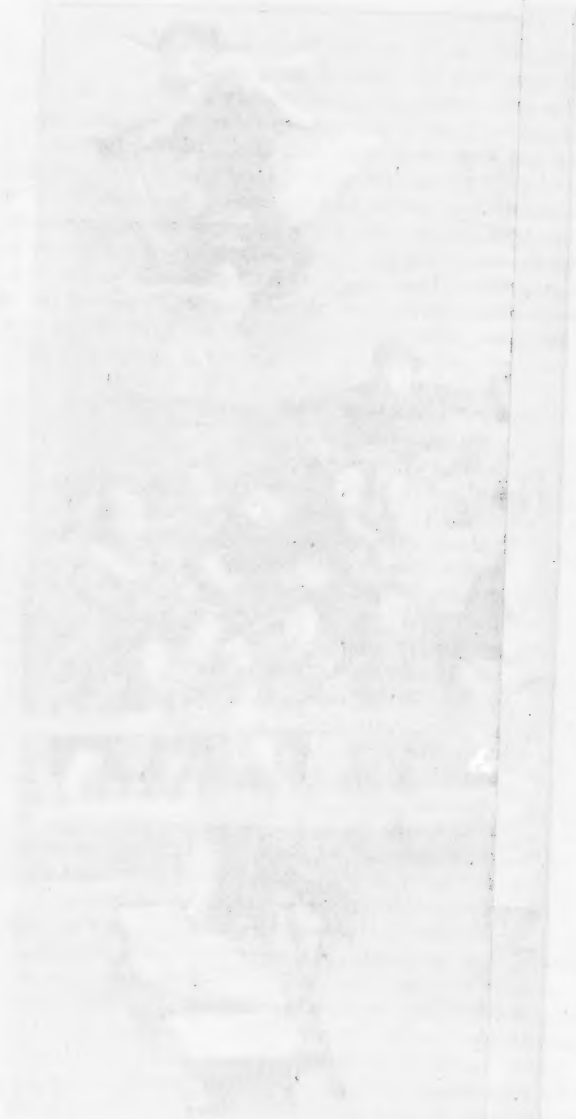
Jubilee Holiday Home.

Almost every Institution has decided in some way to perpetuate the memory of the Jubilee, and in this respect the Ragged School Union has not been backward. Several schemes were proposed, but the one which was thought to be the most useful was that a permanent Holiday Home should be provided. To carry this loyal proposal into effect nearly £1,500 will be required, and to this end a fund was started, and about half of the amount has been received, and we are hoping that before long the full sum will be realised. Who will help? Any further particulars of this special object, or of any of the other work of the Holiday movement, will be most willingly supplied by the Secretary.

A Worker's Account of a Visit to One of the Holiday Homes.

I had longed for the opportunity of seeing something of what was being done by the Holiday Homes, and on the 9th of August had, through the kind invitation of a friend, the pleasure of paying an unexpected visit to Thursley, the Holiday Home No. 1 belonging to the Ragged School Union. Leaving Waterloo shortly after 9 o'clock a.m., we arrived at Godalming "New" about 11 o'clock, and commenced a most refreshing and invigorating walk of five miles through delightful woodland scenery. Upon arriving at the Home, which is built on a knoll by the roadside, we entered the grounds through a large white gate, and found all very quiet, and began to fear that all the little folks were out for a ramble; but no! one or two crept out of some bushes here, some from the hollow at a little distance, a few out of the lavatory, who had been washing their hands and faces, as it was getting near dinner-time. We were soon surrounded by about twenty-two happy children. The question was asked, "Where is the

bad boy who was to be sent home to London?" With looks of wonder upon their faces several answered, "There are no bad boys here." Upon entering we were warmly greeted by the two young ladies who have the management of the Home, and after a little conversation were shown over the place. The dormitories were neat and clean; pretty pictures and Scripture texts hung on the walls, making them look bright and cheerful. The dining-room, with its maps, mottoes, and pictures, had a very comfortable appearance. The kitchen is a roomy place, and supplied with every convenience. Good water is obtained from a well on the premises. Ample provision is made for outdoor games and indoor pastimes. We saw the children at dinner, and were astonished to see the quantity of roast beef, potatoes, and fruit pudding which speedily vanished, and of which we had the pleasure of partaking, and found it excellent. We then begged the matron to take the children for one of their usual excursions. Preparations were soon made. A light van with a strong horse was at the door, in which all the good things for an excellent tea were placed. The elder boys had started, so we, with a few small ones, rode in the van. We first of all visited the church. In the churchyard we saw a tombstone with curiously carved images upon it. The verses underneath told us that an old sailor, name not known, was brutally murdered and robbed by three tramps while going to Portsmouth. We ascended a very steep hill called Hindhead, the most elevated spot in Surrey, being 999 feet above the sea-level, a most charming spot for a picnic. There is a stone obelisk, or Maltese cross, placed here to denote the spot where the murder of the old sailor took place; it is also used as a landmark. The views from this spot are grand. The pretty village of Haslemere nestles at the foot in quite a sheltered position. On the other side is the Devil's Punch-bowl, and here and there can be seen farmhouses and cottages, cultivated fields, woods, copses, hills covered with heather, all glowing in the bright sunshine. Our young friends, who had arrived almost as soon as we, were soon busy, some picking up brushwood and stones to prepare the fire, others gathering hurtle-berries, which are used largely by the country people for jam, also for the dye, which is used for kid gloves; others rambled about the ferns and bushes. We now settled down to enjoy a real picnic tea. A table was made out of the seat of the van, a snow-white cloth covered it; some new-laid eggs from a farmhouse close by, with pure bread and fresh butter, cake, &c. It was a real pleasure to see the delighted children enjoy their picnic tea. Their obedience and watchful readiness to do whatever was told them showed that those in charge had found out the way to win the hearts of these poor children. After feasting our eyes to the



SOUP DISTRIBUTION, NICHOL STREET MISSION.

From The Illustrated London News.

full on the surrounding scenery, we gathered the smallest and placed them in the van, the others following on foot, and a lively time we had of it on our journey back. Our journey this afternoon was only a sample of the usual outings; nearly every day during their fortnight's stay some place of interest is visited. At morning and evening, after the roaming is done, and perhaps a few indoor games have been played, hymns are sung, the Word read, worship conducted, habits of cleanliness inculcated, order and neatness taught; and all this in addition to the change of air, &c., good and regular food, and the cost only a few shillings each child. God bless and prosper all that take part in this noble work, both those who give and those who labour in its cause. T. W. S.

SOUP DISTRIBUTION, NICHOL STREET.

The accompanying clever sketch is a companion picture to the one entitled "Breakfasts to Hungry Children," which appeared in our January number, and with which appeared a brief but interesting story of the Institution. Suffice it now to say that the Nichol Street Ragged School is a fine illustration of the precept "Be not weary in well-doing." It was opened by Mr. Jonathan Duthoit in 1836. The work is associated with Union Chapel, Islington, of which the Rev. Dr. Allon is the minister, and from which the greater number of its teachers are drawn. At the time of the erection of the present building in 1866 there were no less than 111 teachers, principally residing in Highbury, of which number upwards of sixty were ladies. The work is still as flourishing. The clever pictorial sketch tells vividly the tale of active benevolence for which this work is noteworthy. On four mornings weekly during the winter breakfasts are supplied to hungry children, and twice weekly soup is distributed, together with a hunch of bread, for a merely nominal payment. Funds are needed.

WHAT LOVE CAN DO.

Snowsfields Ragged School, Bermondsey—Report of Children's Dinner, &c., 1886.

The band of teachers sat one Sunday evening a few weeks before Christmas in their dilapidated little Ragged School, neither wind nor water tight.

"I propose we give the youngsters a good Christmas dinner," said one. This proposition was favourably received, but as the difficulties of time, place, money, helpers, utensils, &c., began to force them-

SOUP DISTRIBU

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SNOWSFIELDS RAGGED SCHOOL, BERMONDSEY—REPORT OF CHILDREN'S DINNER, &c., 1886.

THE band of teachers sat one Sunday evening a few weeks before Christmas in their dilapidated little Ragged School, neither wind nor water tight.

"I propose we give the youngsters a good Christmas dinner," said one. This proposition was favourably received, but as the difficulties of time, place, money, helpers, utensils, &c., began to force them-

selves into notice, the teachers became more thoughtful, but still steadfast in desire to give effect to the proposal, and ultimately it was decided so to do on Monday, December 27th, the day best suiting the majority of the teachers.

Their own school being far too small and uninviting for the purpose, a more commodious and comfortable hall adjacent thereto was kindly lent by the "Young Men's Christian Association" for the occasion free of charge.

About one hundred children were invited. The necessary fund to defray expenses was made up by the teachers' personal contributions and by collections amongst their friends. Owing to the abundance of food-gifts, however, the actual expenditure was comparatively small, and the account (after payment of all expenses) showed a credit balance of £2 18s.

The mugs, plates, dishes, knives, forks, &c., were lent, free of charge, by "Lockharts," the remainder by a lady teacher, who (as also *all* the lady teachers and friends) deserve heartiest thanks for their ready sympathy and indefatigable personal assistance.

Thanks are due to a neighbouring baker whose sympathy and practical help were enlisted gratis. Invitations to many friends were circulated for gifts of a Christmas pudding, ready for boiling, and most generous were the responses.

The day arrived with a deep layer of snow upon the ground, but the teachers were early at work peeling the hundredweight of potatoes and getting the eight joints of beef ready for baking. This done, the copper was set boiling for heating the puddings, and while this and other matters were attended to by the ladies, the eight dishes were carried to the baker by the male teachers, who at the appointed dinner hour returned them to the school (where the poor ragged and cold youngsters were expectantly waiting) under the guardianship of a specially chartered constable, amid the astonishment of the adults of the neighbourhood and the imminent danger of snowballs from the "small fry."

After a very hearty meal of beef, potatoes, bread, and steaming Christmas pudding (which one boy declared it impossible to equal even at "Lockhart's" for a shilling), an hour and a half was spent in the enjoyment of parlour games and other amusements, while the ladies put their "shoulders to the wheel" washing up.

The children were next provided with a mug of hot coffee and a good slice of cake, after which an entertainment, in which some scholars and the teachers took part, appeared to give much pleasure.

Later on jam tarts and mince pies (the gifts of friends) were distributed to the children, and on their leaving they took with them an

orange and a bag of sweetmeats (the gift of a teacher), the very pretty cards, kindly sent for distribution by the Ragged School Union, being held over for a time owing to the somewhat questionable cleanliness of the children's fingers, which in many cases had been "substituted" for knives and forks.

This being the teachers' first essay of the kind, there were one or two slight faults in the arrangements, which the experience gained will in future rectify, but as a whole the undertaking was a success, and the whole day will doubtless be long remembered by the children as one of keen enjoyment, very seldom falling to their lot, and by the teachers as one of prolonged hard work, cheerfully rendered for the good of the poor children and for the Master's sake.

OUR LATE PRESIDENT AND RAGGED SCHOOLS.*

By G. Holden Pike.

(*Continued from July Number, page* 140.)

Growth of Ragged School Enterprise.

"Since the Ragged School Union was founded, there had been added to the field of its operations, in the space of six or seven years, more than a hundred new schools, attended by considerably over ten thousand children. Lord Shaftesbury's labours multiplied in proportion to the multiplication of the schools. Each had its opening ceremonies, or its anniversary, or its prize distribution night, and each sent in its special claim to his assistance. It required almost superhuman strength to perform the duties devolving upon him. Conferences with teachers, interviews, correspondence day after day; and, in all parts of London, chairs, and the inevitable speeches, night after night.

"His watchfulness was unceasing. There was not a detail of the system that escaped his observation. For example: there was a tendency in some schools, as order was established and decent rooms supplied, to admit children of a class and condition for whom the schools were not intended; and also to retain those who had mended their ways and had risen in the world, instead of transplanting them to other schools. Against this tendency Lord Shaftesbury took a very decided stand. On one occasion he said: 'You must keep your schools down to one mark. . . So long as this class exists, you must keep the schools adapted to their wants, their feelings, their tastes, and their level. I feel that my business lies in the gutter, and I have not the least intention to get out of it.'"

In giving general advice for the conduct of the schools, the Earl also protested against the practice of holding "periodical

* The Life and Work of the Seventh Earl of Shaftesbury. By Edwin Hodder. With Portraits. Cassell and Company. Three vols., 8vo. Price 36s.

exhibitions and displays," a custom which had a tendency to cause too much attention to be given to certain picked subjects, to the partial neglect of other children, perhaps in some respects even more promising. Then no eager military leader ever better understood the happy knack of imparting his own enthusiasm to his followers. "I tell you, my friends," he once said, when a large body of teachers were gathered about him, "that if, with all the success you have attained, with all the knowledge you have acquired, with all the blessings you have received, you pause in your course any longer than is necessary to take breath, gather strength, survey your position, and thank God—why, then I say, never again come into this hall, for, if you do, I will be the first to say to you, as Cromwell said to the House of Commons, 'Out upon you! begone; give place to honester men!'"

As the work extended its empire, the teachers found that they were compelled to multiply their agencies. In many instances the children were virtually homeless, and in their case it was hardly to be expected that the knowledge they acquired in the school, and the Christian influences to which they were subject, would be of much avail if they passed their nights under arches or other nondescript places, or amid the vicious associations of low lodging-houses. Hence the Refuges were established—"Night Refuges for casual vagrants, preference being given to children attending the Ragged School; and permanent Refuges for the support and education, for a stated period, of young persons between ten and fifteen years of age." The beneficial operation of these supplementary agencies was at once seen. Many who turned out promising characters have been encouraged in the Refuge to take their first step towards honour and prosperity.

The longer the Earl and his heroic battalions were engaged in their rescue operations, the greater must their wonder have become that the work had not been attempted before on a large scale. Although Parliament now withdrew its aid, and although few wealthy persons contributed to the funds of the Ragged School Union, the devoted agents of that society were conferring the greatest possible benefit on society at large; for, as Lord Shaftesbury showed, in the year of the first Great Exhibition, they were

Killing Crime in the Seed.

"We have devised and organised a system of prevention by which to stop crime while it is in the seed, and sin before it has broken into flower and desolated society. Although other schools may have stood in the way of vice and crime, no one could say of them, with certainty, that almost every one trained in them would, without their intervention, have been a vagabond or a thief; domestic discipline and other circumstances might have interposed to do their work. But we do maintain that every one of those whom we have reclaimed would, from the very necessity of his position, have been either a thief or a vagabond; we do maintain that, by the instrumentality of this institution, we have established a preventive system which operates in anticipation of the gaoler, or even of the hangman. We have, moreover, greatly abated the amount of juvenile delinquency, and have cleansed the metropolis, not by pouring out from it the filth of our streets, but by passing those children through a cleansing process, before we poured them forth in a rich and fertilising stream on the colonies of our country."

This reference to the Colonies was very significant at that time; for the success of the education scheme was complete when no instance was known of a child having brought disgrace on its teachers after leaving the metropolis. On the contrary, numbers had, by their characters and success, reflected very great honour on Ragged Schools in those distant countries which had become their adopted homes.

While he was ever at his post to inspire the teachers with courage, he was quite as anxious to lead the children themselves on in the path of perseverance. By way of illustration, take this passage from one of

The Earl's Addresses to Children.

"Now, you are called here to-day for the purpose of receiving a prize—a testimonial of good conduct. This card, although a very simple thing in itself, will be very honourable to the possessor. You know that in some of the higher ranks of life the fancies of people are very much tickled by stars, and by ribbons, and by garters; they like them exceedingly, and they look very well when they have them on, and no doubt they are objects of considerable honour and reward to those who have laboured well in their vocation, and have done good to their country. Depend upon it, however, that this, in its degree, is just as honourable to you as the diamond star is to a person in any station of life whatever. You will have done your duty in your station of life; and, if you were to become the greatest man or woman the State ever knew, you cannot go beyond that point of honour—to close your lives, having done your duty."

In the summer of 1860 there was a memorable meeting at St. Martin's Hall, at which Lord Shaftesbury received from the Ragged School Teachers of the metropolis a painting, showing the benefits which had come from the organisation of the Shoeblack Brigades, which were founded chiefly through the instrumentality of Mr. John MacGregor, or "Rob Roy." The Address was contained in an appropriately bound volume, with the signatures of 1,700 persons representing many classes in the general community. It was on that interesting occasion that the Earl said: "I would rather be President of the Ragged School Union than have the command of armies, or wield the destinies of empires. That volume, with its valuable collection of signatures, may go among ancient family records, and it will show to our posterity that some have been good enough to say that I have not been altogether useless in my generation."

In the latter part of his life, more especially, Lord Shaftesbury was accustomed to make an annual appeal in the newspapers on behalf of the Holiday Fund for poor children. Occasionally the responses that came in were couched in anything but complimentary language; but in 1884 there came a letter enclosing £15 from Sir Moses Montefiore. "Believe me, my dear Lord Shaftesbury," remarked the writer, "that I am delighted with the opportunity thus afforded me of evincing my heartfelt appreciation of the noble and benevolent works in which you have for a very long period taken so beneficent an interest." In remitting the money to Mr. Kirk, the Earl said, "That grand old Hebrew is better than many Christians."

In 1870 the Earl sustained a heavy loss in the

Death of Judge Payne.

"March 30th.—Last night, on return from Sunday School meeting at Stepney, read, in a letter to me from Miss Bodkin, that my dear, old, precious friend and fellow-worker, Joseph Payne, was suddenly called to his rest! Most assuredly to his rest in heaven; for no man ever more loved the Lord Jesus, and more truly and heartily fulfilled His words, 'Feed My lambs.' What shall I do without him? Every meeting, every speech, every mention of Ragged School affairs, every movement or thought in behalf of sorrowing and destitute children, will recall his pious and pleasant memory. During five and twenty years we have been associates in the happy toil of the poor innocents of London."

Just about the time that Judge Payne died the Education Bills were before the country, and the controversy was in progress concerning the admission or non-admission of the Bible into Board Schools. It would serve no good purpose to go through that controversy in this place; but the following will be read with interest, as showing what the Earl thought on the subject of

THE BIBLE AND THE POOR.

"March 16th.—Prizes in Exeter Hall last night. Never was I more touched; never more sorrowful. It is, probably, the close of these Christian and heart-moving spectacles. The godless, non-Bible system is at hand; and the Ragged Schools, with all their divine polity, with all their burning and fruitful love for the poor, with all their prayers and harvests for the temporal and eternal welfare of forsaken, heathenish, destitute, sorrowful, and yet innocent children, must perish under this all-conquering march of intellectual power. Our nature is nothing, the heart is nothing, in the estimation of these zealots of secular knowledge. Everything for the flesh, and nothing for the soul; everything for time, and nothing for eternity."

When the Board Schools were set up by Act of Parliament the Earl was still more anxious than ever to carry on the Christian mission work which had characterised Ragged Schools from the first. Hence, at the opening of 1872, we find him recording such sentences in his diary as these: "Must labour with a few chosen friends to catch the waifs and strays, and bring them to Christ." "Must do all that I can, and how little that is, for the several missions in the most desperate of London localities." Ragged Schools must still go on, whatever threatened, or their principal founder would die of a broken heart.

In the course of his references to Ragged School Flower Shows, Mr. Hodder shows that many social advantages were the result of those periodical exhibitions. Anything which stimulates the poor to devote more attention to their homes and to render them attractive must be an advantage; and this was what the flower shows did. They were an indirect means of the teachers getting at the parents of their children. In Westminster, in the days of Dean Stanley, Dean's Yard was a favourite place for holding them, and it was there that the Earl once met with an adventure which he always remembered with pleasure. "As I was mixing among the people I felt a little hand playing with mine," he remarked, "and a little girl looked up in my face and said, 'Please, sir, may

I give you a kiss?' I said, 'I am sure you may, my dear, and I'll give you one, too.' Do you think, then, I did not say," he added, "What would London be without her children?"

His interest in these young creatures never diminished; and that the good Earl sometimes reaped the reward which pleased him best is well illustrated in this story of

The Two Portraits.

"He was sitting in the library at Grosvenor Square with two portraits before him. One was that of a poor, puny, destitute child in rags and tatters; the other of a handsome woman in fashionable attire. He said: Just look at these portraits; they have rejoiced my heart more than I can ever tell. I am more delighted than if I had become possessed of half the kingdom. There is a strange story connected with these portraits. Years ago, late at night, there was a knock at the door. There was nothing very unusual about that, but somehow it attracted my attention more than usual, and I remember wondering who it could be, and what the business could be about. Presently I heard the loud and angry voice of a man in altercation with my servant. I felt then—and I recall the feeling vividly at this moment—a strange inward prompting that it was my duty to go and see what was the matter. There was a man with a little child in his arms, which he was endeavouring to thrust into the arms of my servant, who of course would not take it. 'What is this all about?' I asked. The man turned to me and said, 'Lord Shaftesbury, I have brought this child to you—I don't know what else to do with it. I cannot trust myself to be its father, and I cannot abandon it altogether.' The man's importunity would brook no denial; his appeal was very touching, and I felt I could not dismiss the case. I let the man come in, and took down from him all particulars, and the end of it was that the child was left with me. I did not know very well what to do with the poor little thing, so I had her sent to an inn close by for the night, and the next day, when the landlady of the inn brought her back, Miss Rye happened to be here. She undertook to find a home for the child, and sure enough, before very long, a lady, who visited the home in which she was, took such a fancy to her that she adopted her. And that portrait of the fine lady is the portrait of what that little ragged, destitute child has developed into. I shall never forget that night when she was left at this house. I feel as convinced that I was moved to do what I did by our blessed Lord as if I had seen Him in person and heard His voice."

The above romance from real life must be supplemented by just one other—an extract from one of the Earl's Ragged School speeches. The reference is to the neighbourhood on the north side of the Holborn Viaduct, now partially cleared and rebuilt upon. It is an example of

A Teacher's Influence.

"I have there seen men of forty years of age and children of three in the same room—men the wildest and most uncouth, whom it was considered dangerous to meet, and perhaps it would be dangerous to meet them in the dark alone, but in that room they were perfectly safe. I saw there thirty or forty men, none of them with shoes or stockings on, and some without shirts—the wildest and most awful looking men you can imagine. They all sat in a ring, and the only other human being in the room was a young woman of twenty-six or twenty-seven years of age, and, allow me to add, one of the prettiest women I ever saw. She was teaching all these wild, rough, uncouth creatures, who never bowed the head to any constable or any form of civil authority, yet they looked on her with a degree of reverence and affection that amounted almost to adoration. I was greatly alarmed, and going downstairs and meeting the superintendent, I said, 'My good fellow, I don't like this; there she is among all those roughs. I am very much alarmed.' 'So am I,' he said. 'Then why do you leave her there?' I asked. He replied, 'I am not alarmed from the same reason that you are. You are alarmed lest they should offer some insult to her, but what I am afraid of is this, that some day a man might drop in who, not knowing the habits of the place, might lift a finger against her, and if he did so, he would never leave the room alive, he would be torn limb from limb.' So great was the reverence that these lawless and apparently ungovernable creatures paid to the grace and modesty of that young woman."

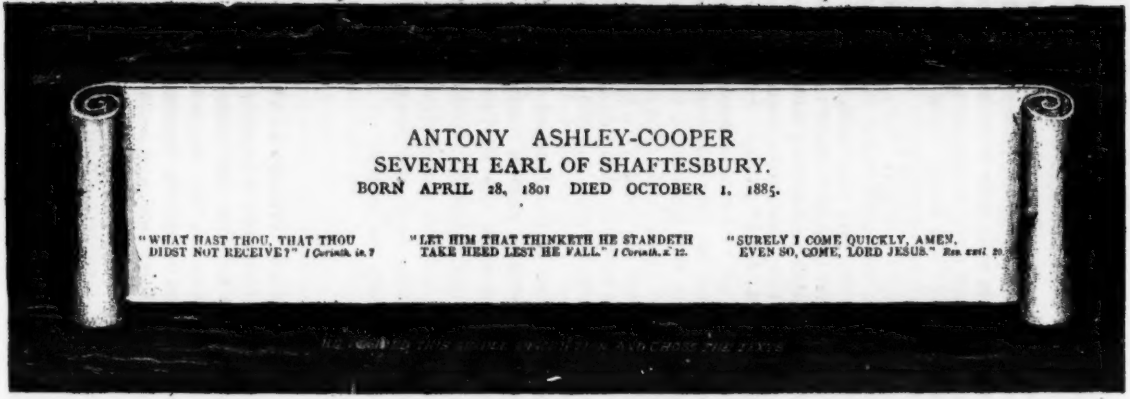
Such is a general view of the Ragged School work undertaken or stimulated by the seventh Earl of Shaftesbury. The movement from first to last represents the Earl's most loved and greatest achievement. We congratulate Mr. Hodder on the completion of his onerous task, and trust that the publication of such a story may excite new interest in the waifs and strays of our streets, who are still too low down to help themselves.

G. Holden Pike.

LIGHT THAT LINGERS.

By the kind thoughtfulness of a member of the family we are able to give a picture of the tablet to the memory of the Seventh Earl of Shaftesbury, late President of the Ragged School Union, which is placed on the wall inside St. Giles's Church, Wimborne, Dorsetshire. Its simplicity and the texts chosen show in his relation to God his sincere piety and profound humility, and the notices of him by G. Holden Pike running through the Quarterly numbers is a good digest of his Ragged School work. A new and cheap edition of Mr. Edwin Hodder is in the press, and will be published at a price which will place it within the reach of a still wider circle of readers.

In Memoriam.


ANTONY ASHLEY-COOPER
SEVENTH EARL OF SHAFTESBURY.
BORN APRIL 28, 1801 DIED OCTOBER 1, 1885.
"WHAT HAST THOU, THAT THOU DIDST NOT RECEIVE?" I Corinth. iv. 7
"LET HIM THAT THINKETH HE STANDETH TAKE HEED LEST HE FALL." I Corinth. x. 12.
"SURELY I COME QUICKLY, AMEN. EVEN SO, COME, LORD JESUS." Rev. xxii. 20.

ST. GILES'S CHURCH, WIMBORNE.

JOHN MACGREGOR, M.A.

By G. Holden Pike.

(*Continued from July Number, page* 130.)

As Mr. MacGregor began to be an active philanthropist in 1847, when he was twenty-two years of age, by joining the Ragged School Union, we will briefly allude to two or three branches of Christian service with which he has ever since been identified.

When the Union was established in 1844, it was the outcome of a supreme effort to save the children, on the part of those who became alarmed at the increase of juvenile crime, and who plainly saw that the alternative would have to be either more prisons or more schools.

When Rob Roy early joined the great movement, he not only helped to enlighten the public regarding the aims and purposes of the Union, but himself struck out a new path at the time of the first Great Exhibition, in 1851, by organising the Shoeblack brigades. At the present time these brigades earn about £1,000 a month in the streets of London, and from first to last thousands of boys have found them to be an open door to a life of usefulness which otherwise they could never have enjoyed.

The Ragged School Union, of which Mr. MacGregor is a Vice-President, has been the means of rescuing an immense number of children from lapsing into criminal courses; and after forty-two years of active operation, it is so far from finding its field narrowed by the action of School Boards, that new departures are being taken as the necessities of altered times and circumstances require.

Mr. MacGregor also had a principal hand in founding the Pure Literature Society, an Association which, since the middle of the century, has been wonderfully successful in diffusing wholesome reading among the people. The Society does not publish books on its own account; but it has made grants to the extent of nearly £60,000 at half-price to working-people's libraries; while, by means of magazine associations in different parts of the country, a trade has been created which otherwise would have been lost to the publishers. Mr. MacGregor is still one of the honorary secretaries of this Association, and he has never ceased to take the keenest interest in its operations.

This active philanthropist was also a main instrument in founding that useful agency, the Open Air Mission, which has now been in existence more than a third of a century, and which annually brings the Gospel within the hearing of three million souls, while, in the same period, about one million tracts, books, cards, &c., are distributed. Mr. MacGregor has shown the interest he takes in this enterprise by

his tract, "Go Out Quickly," which has been scattered by tens of thousands, proving a stimulus to many.

Mr. MacGregor has extended his patronage to many other agencies, in a number of instances ungrudgingly giving his personal assistance. Thus he acted as honorary secretary of the Protestant Defence Committee during the anti-papal excitement of 1850; and he has served the Protestant Alliance in a similar capacity. He also took an active part in promoting those Acts of Parliament which resulted in the establishment of Industrial Schools, and the Reformatory and Refuge Union. While these varied works were engaged in, the love of adventure, which appeared at an early age in Ireland, sought and found satisfaction. By the time that he was twenty-six he had seen Greece and the dominions of the Sultan, as was shown by his book, "Eastern Music." Not long afterwards he ascended Mont Blanc, about which he also published a book; and then followed, in 1858, a *brochure* on Canada and the United States, in which countries he gave a number of addresses. At the age of twenty he had already turned both pen and pencil to good account by contributing to *Punch*, the proceeds being given to the poor-boxes of the London police-courts; while the profits of another book, "Three Days in the East," were given to the Ragged School Union.

As a traveller, Mr. MacGregor has won a unique kind of fame, the books in which he has chronicled his adventures having become exceedingly popular. In the canoe which he designed himself, he has penetrated even into the out-of-the-way corners of Europe, and has thus seen more than any ordinary tourist, travelling in the beaten tracks, could possibly see. His first journey in the little craft was undertaken in 1865, and the book describing his adventures is called "A Thousand Miles in the Rob Roy Canoe on Rivers and Lakes of Europe." The adventurous traveller became familiar with fourteen rivers, six lakes, besides several canals in Belgium and France. He tells us that "the route on land led sometimes over mountains and through forests and plains, where the boat had to be carried or dragged." To some he will doubtless appear an enthusiast; but there is some force in what he says in favour of his own methods.

"It will generally be found, we think, that for walking in a pleasant country, twenty miles a day are enough for mind and body to be active and observant all the time. But the events that occur in river work are far more frequent and interesting than those on the road, for you have all the circumstances of your boat in addition to what fills the pedestrian's journal, and after a little time your canoe becomes so much a companion (friend shall I say?) that every turn it takes, and every knock and grate on its side, is felt as if it were your own. The

boat gets to be individualised and so does the river, till at last there is a pleasant rivalry set up, for it is 'man and boat,' *versus* the river and all it can place in your way. After a few tours on the continent, your first hour in a railway or diligence may be new and enjoyable, but you soon begin to wish for the end of the road, and then, after a short stay in the town at the end, you begin to talk (or think) of when you are to leave. Now a feature of the canoe tour is that quiet progress can be enjoyed all the time, because you have personal exertion or engagement for every moment, and your observation of the scenery around is now most minute and interesting, because every bend and slope of it tells at once upon what you have to do."

After his return from this trip, Mr. MacGregor organised the Royal Canoe Club, of which he is captain, and of which the Prince of Wales is commodore. Some hundreds of members have been enrolled, and some of these are foreigners.

His next expedition was through northern Europe, and the record was published as "Rob Roy on the Baltic." As the adventurous hero remarks, "Quite new things will meet us in this cruise, and different from those we told of in the former voyage. Then we had the rapids to shoot, and shallows to wade, and Swiss glaciers, and German castles, and French omelettes to discuss. Now we have to dash into salt water, to sail over inland seas, to grope amid foggy islands, and to fish and to cook under lonely gaunt rocks."

The descriptions of the different countries and the pictures of social life in the far north are very fresh and captivating, but while want of space precludes our referring to these, the fact should not be forgotten that the Rob Roy was a messenger of peace on all occasions. In other words, Mr. MacGregor always carried with him a supply of Christian publications in the languages of the countries through which he passed. He well says:—

"To ridicule the general practice of tract-giving is too ridiculous. To put it down by banter is impossible; and you are not likely to improve it by laughing. Therefore let me say, once for all, that on this voyage, as on every other tour, I constantly gave tracts, feeling, too, that if the people around me were not available for this sort of communication, or if I was not ready to use it on their behalf, there must be some restraint on their side or on mine, which ought not to exist between the sons and daughters of Adam, pilgrims in a world together, and with great, and broad, and deep, and lofty things in common, which ought never to be very distant from our thoughts, and which one day must be near. Now you have had a tract from the 'Chaplain of the Canoe.'"

A voyage of another kind was along the coasts of France and England, in a yawl of the same name as the canoe; and on that

occasion the still solitary traveller distributed even larger supplies of books and papers. A copy of the *British Workman* translated into French, and having a portrait of the late Emperor on its front page, was an especial favourite. "The soldiers like these so much," it is said, "that it was the fashion to place the Emperor's picture over each man's bed." On one occasion His Majesty happened to notice this when visiting a guard-room, and he had the whole story explained to him. The late Prince Imperial also came for a *British Workman*, and probably it was pinned behind his Royal Highness's four-poster. He was a member of the Royal Canoe Club, and one of his canoes was saved from the fire at the Palace of St. Cloud. The profits of "The Voyage alone in the yawl Rob Roy" made a fund out of which prizes were given to boys on training-ships in the Thames, Mersey, and Severn. Every year, on their leaving for active service, twenty of the most deserving boys each receive a sovereign and a medal.

We have reserved till the last the mention of Mr. MacGregor's chief work, "The Rob Roy on the Jordan." He remarks that "the unspeakable delight of such a cruise cannot be imparted in writing, but a new description of old Bible scenes, which are for all people and for all time, may enliven some hearts and deepen our insight as to holy things." To read such a book is an education as well as an entertainment.

Mr. MacGregor not only devoted the profits of his books to philanthropic objects—the Rob Roy Lecture, which he instituted after his return from his adventurous expedition through Eastern lands, has realised some thousands of pounds, the money having been devoted to various charities.

In general literary and scientific pursuits Mr. MacGregor has made his mark. He has read papers before the British Association and the Society of Arts, and he has frequently contributed to our periodical literature. He has made, we believe, extensive researches both at home and abroad for a work on the steam-engine, and during these investigations many valuable facts have been discovered.

Rob Roy is thus a many-sided character—lawyer, traveller, scientist, friend of the poor, all being combined in the same person. He was a prominent member of the first School Board for London, and he is understood to have given up his profession as a lawyer in order to devote his energies more entirely to the interests of the children. He is an active Member of the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and one of the Honorary Secretaries of the "Shaftesbury Memorial." Somewhat late in life he married a daughter of Vice-Admiral Sir J. Crauford Caffin, and we trust that he may long live to be the joy of his family, and to carry on his manifold works of charity.

THE UNDENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIAN MISSION, PONTYMOIL, NEAR PONTYPOOL, SOUTH WALES.

Founder and Honorary Superintendent—Mr. Thomas M. Wintle.

At the outset of the Ragged School movement the work to be done was so vast that the Union was driven perforce to limit its action to the metropolis. As time advanced, the circumference was extended, and seven years since it was resolved to aim at direct communication with Ragged School Missions everywhere, although the pecuniary resources must still, in the main, be centred on the metropolis. The extension has brought the Committee into helpful contact with many blessed agencies in the provinces, to the advantage, it is hoped, of the movement generally.

We purpose giving our readers an account of one of the latest of these additions, which was visited by Mr. Kirk in August last, viz., the Undenominational Christian Mission and Ragged Schools at Pontymoil, near Pontypool, South Wales, which has branches also at Pontnewydd, near Newport, and at Cwmffrwdoer—places inhabited almost wholly by workers in iron and steel, colliers, and miners.

The birth of the mission may be said to have taken place at a meeting held in a cottage in Pontymoil on the evening of Saturday, June 17th, 1878, when were present several working-men who had been induced to sign the pledge through the efforts of Mr. Wintle. A week later the same gentleman started out in search of the little children who frequented the ironworks, the banks of the canal and river, and other places; and in a very short time, by means of some delicacies in which the hearts of children rejoice, he had collected a score or more boys, ready and willing to agree to his project of coming to school, on condition that at the close they were again regaled on the aforementioned dainties. These poor, ragged, neglected little ones, many of whom, though young in years, were hardened in sin, were taken to a room previously prepared for their reception, and there and then the Ragged School was inaugurated. The result of this step was noteworthy. The parents, when they became aware that their children attended school, woke up to their generally deplorable condition, and what little self-respect they had left prompted them to do something towards turning their children out with at least clean faces, even if they could not deny themselves sufficiently to provide them with decent clothes. And that it only wanted a little self-denial to accomplish this and much more has since been abundantly proved, for before five years elapsed we read: "It is with gratitude to Almighty God that we record the fact that now,

in scores of homes, rags and dirt have given place to decent clothing." How this great change came about this short history will show.

The first extension of the mission was the formation of a Total Abstinence Society, and many colliers and others were induced to sign the temperance pledge. A Tent of the Independent Order of Rechabites followed, and in course of time a juvenile Tent. So rapid was the growth of the organisation, that in a very short time the school-room became too small, and the erection of a mission-hall was resolved on. This hall, of corrugated iron lined with wood, was duly opened and paid for, the cost being subscribed in a great measure by the people themselves. Mr. Wintle and his small though devoted band of workers next turned their attention to open-air preaching, a commencement being made one Sunday afternoon at Cwmyniscoy.

Other branches of the work have been added from time to time. Among these may be mentioned the Children's Service, which is held every Sunday morning, and is conducted by the workers in regular order. The Children's Scripture and Prayer Union has fifty members, and is still increasing. Every week a Sewing Class is held, the members of which are girls from five to fifteen years of age. Each of these little ones contributes a trifle towards the cost of the article she is engaged in making, so that when it is completed it becomes her own property. This meeting is not entirely given over to work, for the proceedings are relieved by the singing of hymns and the reading of the Scriptures. There is also a class for the purpose of teaching the young men—many of whom are painfully ignorant—to read, and the instruction is followed by a Gospel address, which is reverently listened to. The Bible Classes for adults are highly appreciated, and prove the means of health and blessing.

In connection with the Temperance Society, free entertainments are given periodically during the winter months, and these are invariably well attended and successful, as are the pictorial services, which are occasionally given by the aid of a magic lantern. A free Lending Library has been recently added. The number of those who have deposited their spare pence in the Penny Bank during the short time it has been open augurs well for its ultimate success.

A colporteur has been at work during the past three months, but for the proper prosecution of his labours in Monmouthshire a Bible-carriage is sadly needed.

A great work is being done among the girls employed in the tin-plate and other works in Pontymoil, whose condition is a source of great anxiety. Services are held in the dinner-hour, when addresses are delivered. Free teas have also been provided, Sewing Meetings,

classes for reading and writing, and other means have been taken—not in vain, it may be said—to influence these girls for good.

The Evangelistic Meetings of the mission are a great success; the Young Believers' Meeting is rapidly progressing in numbers; and the Mothers' Meeting has been the means of inducing many to attend a place of worship, and also provided necessary articles and warm clothing for those who were in need of such.

One very important department of the mission's work is feeding the hungry. The distribution of food, warm clothing, and coals to the necessitous has been a much-appreciated feature of the work done, but unfortunately, owing to the continued depression in the iron and other trades, on which the inhabitants are entirely dependent, the need for increased efforts, with a corresponding increased outlay, in this direction, have become year by year more painfully evident.

Mr. Wintle has special means of becoming acquainted with the actual position of each family, and this ascertained, steps are at once taken for the relief of those in need. This relief takes the form of free meals, consisting of soup, Irish stew, porridge, rice, cocoa, bread-and-jam, &c., served in the two mission-halls at Pontnewydd and Pontymoil. During last winter over 37,000 meals were thus provided.

It may be added, Mr. Thomas M. Wintle, the founder and honorary superintendent, is essentially one of the people. He is an employé at the Lower Mills Works, and although the position he occupies is one of responsibility, and necessarily makes considerable demands upon his time, he yet finds leisure to supervise the operations of the mission. From the first, when, impelled by the wickedness and misery he saw around him, he commenced with the meeting in the cottage, through all the bright days and dark days, Mr. Wintle has never wavered, but continued in the course set before himself. That the almost unaided efforts of one man in commencing a Ragged School for neglected children should have grown, in the course of a few years, into an institution, with all its varied organisations, is in itself matter for great thankfulness.

THE RIGHT HON. JOHN BRIGHT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The glory of the institutions associated with the names of Robert Raikes and John Pounds renders it almost impossible for the lustre of any name to add one ray to their meridian brightness. Yet we gladly welcome the thoughtful words of so eminent an orator as Mr. John Bright, because his felicitous mode of handling subjects imparts force and freshness to old and well-worn topics. At a

Sunday School conference recently held in his native town of Rochdale he presided; and in dealing with a subject familiar to his audience, it is beautiful to notice how cautiously he treads, and with what modesty his opinions are presented.

Progress.

Commencing with a graceful tribute to the Education Act of 1870 for the ability to read it has widely conferred, whereby the burden of the Sunday School teacher has been lightened, he passes on to the changes for the better wrought among the people during the last twenty or thirty years—improvements attributable, among other things, to better dwellings and cheaper food; and, from observations made in his own town, he concludes that children generally are better clothed, more healthy, and more intelligent. He notices in passing that the common people, irrespective of their opinions or no opinions on religious matters, are quite favourable to their children attending Day Schools in which religious knowledge is imparted.

Discriminates between Sunday Schools and Day Schools.

"Now there is a difference, I suppose, although I know comparatively little of Sunday Schools, between the production of the efforts of the Sunday School and ordinary schools. In the ordinary schools the efforts are mainly literary—teaching what we all recollect caused us such trouble when we were young; but when you come to the Sunday Schools you have rather a different kind of teaching and rather different workers. In Sunday Schools you endeavour to train the children something more in regard to what we call morals and religion. The portion of time occupied on the Sunday is directed to a considerable extent to that object. Now there can, to my mind, be nothing more important to the young of our population than that this should be the case, and that it should be done universally, and, as far as possible, successfully. There is much besides reading and writing, and the ordinary rules of arithmetic, and something of geography—there is much besides that which goes to form a real and useful education for the bringing up of children. Teachers of all schools—the teachers of Sunday Schools, perhaps, particularly—have a very wide field, and they have a great opportunity of sowing good seed in the minds of the young. The young people are very impressionable. You may work them as a sculptor works the soft clay, which he can turn into any form he pleases; but when you come to a further age, it is not working in soft clay, but trying to mould something out of stone or granite, and which often very much fails of success."

The Vocation of the Teacher.

In proceeding to deal with the special vocation of the teacher, Mr. Bright omits to mention some characteristics of Day Schools which gives them a claim to regard on moral grounds. The teachers are of guaranteed intelligence, ready and apt to communicate; and the standard reading-books used are all of them replete with topics bearing on the daily life of children. Such topics, by their simple and graceful treatment, cannot fail of making good impressions on the minds of the young. The difference as regards Sunday School teaching lies in the aim of the teacher.

Things that may be Taught in a Sunday School.

Now what are the things, he asks, that you may teach children in a Sunday School, without much troubling them with books? They are the value of truthfulness, the benefit of temperance and thrift, and the importance of kindness. On kindness to animals he says: "There is nothing to me more base than to cruelly treat animals who cannot answer, who cannot resent, who cannot avenge themselves, who cannot escape, and whatever their sufferings may be in many cases, they are not able to utter a word about it." He dwells next on the kindness which comes nearer home—that is, the kindness of the scholars and children among themselves and the kindness in their own homes. "My observation, which has now extended over many years, has been that there is hardly anything that does bring, and is more likely to bring, pain and trouble and deep anxiety to parents, than the conduct or misconduct of their children. 'It is "worse than the serpent's tooth" to have a thankless child,' and there are many children that are thankless to their parents, who have done their best for them. Observations on this point to children, in my opinion, may be useful." And then, by way of caution and encouragement, he continues: "There are many, probably, who would not be affected, to whom it would make no difference, but amongst a score or a hundred children there are some of a sort you can always appeal to, and appealing to them in a matter of this kind will probably produce permanent effect, and will tend very much to the comfort of families. The parents will feel the advantage on the children coming to the school, and the children will feel it; for even one member of the family touched with feelings of this kind will affect the whole household, and will be an instrument of good in the small circle in which he moves. I am, therefore, talking not so much about good reading or good spelling, or some knowledge of arithmetic, or some acquaintance with geography, but something that is not always supposed to be a portion of school life and school teaching, but I believe it is of

first necessity, and that it is a mode of doing good which the teacher has in his power, and the extent of which it is quite impossible to calculate."

The Franchise a Moral Trust.

He lastly refers to the exercise of the franchise, in which a vote is given concerning questions of the gravest magnitude, affecting the interests and condition of the whole kingdom. "It seems to me that nothing can be of greater importance than that the people of every class should be taught something of truth and honour, and of the necessity, the propriety, and the righteousness of observance of the law."

The Sunday School an Instrument of Universal Importance.

After a few more observations he thus concludes:—"My approbation may be worth nothing, my thanks may be worth nothing, but as one of those who have wished to improve the condition of the great mass of our people, I have always looked upon the Sunday School as an instrument of universal importance; and I believe it is one that has produced immense and most valuable results."

Incompleteness of Statement.

There may be some who will complain of the incompleteness or one-sidedness of these remarks. There may have been something in this incomplete presentation—a sort of saying with regard to Christian doctrine and practical religion, "this ought ye to teach, and not leave that untaught." Moreover it must be borne in mind that the Society of Friends—to which the speaker belongs—lay an emphasis on such teaching, and make the sermon on the mount their text-book of morals. Wise conduct is all-important, and itself a preparation for the reception of the highest truth. He that doeth His will shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God or not. Belief taught as a matter of opinion is nowhere. Religious truth must be a conviction, an experience, and when set on fire of love, becomes molten, in which state it can readily be poured into the hearts of the children, there happily to consolidate into the image of the Divine.

Whatever was lacking in Mr. Bright's address was supplied by Mr. Birkenshaw, who followed him. Indeed it would seem that the topics were divided between them, one taking morals, the other religion. After giving a most eloquent description of what the Sunday School has done for modern civilisation, he proceeds to notice the *one phase of present day life which was perplexing and distressing*:—

"At the same time one phase of present day life was perplexing and distressing. Notwithstanding that in the two great nations of Christen-

dom, England and America, 1,500,000 teachers were engaged from week to week in expounding the Scriptures to 8,000,000 scholars, notwithstanding the diffusion of religious literature, yet in spite of that there was a growing state of lawlessness among young people that was most ominous. Reverence for parents, respect for age, the fear of God and the dictates of prudence, were all put aside, and the one law of young life seemed to be that of self-pleasing. Would some one throw any light upon that? Seeing that the Board of Health, the social reformer, and the Board School teacher had left them only the spiritual work to do, how were they to do it? *The great purpose of the schools should be to see that the children, while they were children, before they left the charge of the teacher, became the disciples of Christ, and that must be the one business of superintendents and teachers. And recognising the invaluable aid given in the past by men and women, not professed followers of Christ, he believed that the time had come when they should appoint as teachers only those who, having the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, imbued with His Spirit and clothed in His power, sought to be helpers in His kingdom.* Instead of having a large number of small classes, for which it was difficult to find teachers, he recommended that there should be three divisions for boys and three for girls, placing each division under the care of a teacher whose head and heart alike marked him out as the right man in the right place. *The great want of the times was teachers who would teach what was in them, teach from experience, devout men and women to whom the Bible was a law and a delight, to whom Christ was a personal Saviour, with whom religion was a practice, and on whose souls the salvation of the children rested like a heavy responsibility.*" Mr. Birkenshaw's concluding words were:—"The one need then—so imperative in its urgency that to ignore or to neglect it will be fatal to our hopes—is that our Sunday School classes, be they many or few, shall be taught only by men and women who will speak because they believe, labour because they love, and fight not as those who beat the air, but skilfully because they have been trained to use the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."

APT TO TEACH.

THE work of Sunday School teaching is one which, if it is to be successfully done, must not be inconsiderately and thoughtlessly taken in hand. A short time ago I asked a young teacher how she got on with her class. "Oh!" she said, "I cannot bear it." She had been asked to take a class, but she did not care about it. Now, I ask, how can teachers hope to succeed when they feel no interest?

I replied that Sunday School teaching is pleasant and profitable

when we feel an interest and like the work. There must be Christian love, experience, and zeal in the Sunday School teacher, and the larger our staff of such characteristic workers in our Sunday Schools, the more successful will be the results.

What is the first thing necessary in a Sunday School teacher? His own conversion: this should be the starting point. Salvation and pardon must be practically experienced. Next he should gain by the Spirit's teaching a devout knowledge of the Bible. Scripture should be compared with scripture in order that the Divine Word be discreetly handled. Next the teacher should pray for wisdom, patience, and courage in the work. We should pray for our scholars' conversion. This is the great duty incumbent on all Sunday School teachers. In lessons given in the class, or addresses behind the desk, there should be earnestness, freshness, and numerous illustrations.

A Sunday School teacher having the grace of God in his heart and zeal for the work need not be a dull teacher when so much is provided for his use to make him a workman that needeth not to be ashamed. It is but a short time that is given to any of us for labour in the Lord's vineyard. The children are with us only for a little while. They will grow up and pass beyond our reach, but the lessons of God's truth we planted will remain if, having been ourselves taught by the Holy Spirit, we are "Apt to teach."

THOMAS HEATH,
Plymouth. *Sunday School Superintendent.*

WINTER WORK.

THE following circular has been widely issued:—

"Ragged School Union, Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.
"Sept. 9th, 1886.

"DEAR SIR,—The time for the Winter Session is rapidly approaching. It is hoped that Evening work, comprising Night Schools, Youths' Institutes, and other work of a spiritual, social, and recreative character, will be commenced or resumed. I shall be glad when necessary to confer with you, or with your committee, on any matters affecting the school work.

"A line saying what is proposed to be undertaken will greatly oblige.

"I remain, dear Sir, yours truly,
"RICHARD J. CURTIS, *Organising Secretary.*

"To the Secretary of ——."

MAGIC LANTERNS.

THE winter session of 1887 is now at hand; we therefore beg to remind the superintendents and workers of the Missions, when they draw up their plans for winter amusements, that the Ragged School Union lanterns will again be available, subject to the undermentioned conditions.

"At least a fortnight's previous notice must be given, and in making the application please give size of room and other particulars. The lanterns can be used singly or conjointly for dissolving views, with oil or lime and gas. If the limelight is required, the gas must be provided by the school; if used with oil-light, the best paraffin oil (only) to be used, and great care with the lanterns is necessary at all times. The oil-chambers must be emptied after use. The apparatus must be called for on the day arranged, and returned to the office the following morning; the expense of porterage to and fro being wholly defrayed by the school using the lantern. All breakages and losses must be made good. The collection of slides is miscellaneous, and includes—'John Tregenoweth,' 'Jane Conquest,' 'Buy Your Own Cherries,' 'Pilgrim's Progress,' 'Prodigal Son,' chromatropes, moveable slides, hymns, &c."

It should be understood that the office cannot hold itself ready to meet any request further than as regards the *loan of the apparatus*. If the services of a lecturer or operator should be required the utmost will be done to oblige, but notice must be given on making the application to Mr. Kirk at the office, Exeter Hall, W.C.

WHEN THE NORTH WIND DOTH BLOW!

THE WINTER CRY of poor children represents importunate wants. We therefore make this timely appeal to the compassion of our numerous friends, assuring them their kind gifts shall reach necessitous cases. For well-nigh fifty years the Ragged School Union, like an incarnate pity, has gone about doing good. It now repeats the cry.

PRAY REMEMBER THE CHILDREN!

Old garments, or pieces of cloth or flannel to fashion into upper or under apparel, or contributions in money to supply the warm meal of soup or Irish stew, will be thankfully received by the Secretary at the office, Exeter Hall, London.

DAYS OF UNIVERSAL PRAYER.

A CIRCULAR has been issued by the Sunday School Union, and which appeared in the *Sunday School Chronicle* of September 16th,

relating to the days set apart for prayer, which are Sunday and Monday, October 16th and 17th. It suggests private intercessory prayer, meetings of teachers before school, scholars' prayer meetings, singing, devotional exercises, and addresses on Sunday afternoons. On the Monday—Private intercessory prayer, meetings of female teachers for intercessory prayer and thanksgiving, and churches and congregations to be invited to hold meetings having special relation to the young. An excellent programme of sacred service, with which we are sure our Ragged School friends throughout London and the country will comply to the utmost of their ability.

THE ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL, HAVERSTOCK HILL.

In the July issue of this Magazine an In Memoriam notice was given of Mr. George Raison, a man of humble life, who, from the moment of his conversion, some twenty years previously, gave the whole of his spare time to the service of his Lord and Master. His chief work was among the waifs and strays of the lodging-houses in Harrow Street, Mint Street, and St. Saviour's. His daily life was exemplary, for in the service of one employer he spent thirty years, dying at the age of forty-one.

GIVE HIS CHILD A VOTE!!!

Of his three little ones, George Henry Newman Raison, aged seven years, is now a candidate for admission to the ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL, Haverstock Hill. The case is strongly recommended by the Rev. Newman Hall. The widow, Mrs. Raison, 15, Rutley Gardens, Kensington Park, will be glad to receive proxies.

REAPING.

[Those who go forth weeping, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again rejoicing, bringing their sheaves with them.]

MILLWALL JUVENILE AND ADULT MISSION.

Tobago Street, E., May 27th, 1887.

DEAR MR. CURTIS,—I am extremely happy to send you a brief extract from our Night School report for the season just closed.

C. Donovan, a wild young man unable to say the alphabet, was led to come to the Night School, where he was enabled to advance, and he became so earnest and persistent that at the close of the season I found, on visiting his home, he had a copybook written full of selected

hymns, which I had no difficulty in reading, and he is more than all a very earnest and consistent Christian, and one of the first to our Sunday morning 7.30 Prayer Meeting; and the greatest proofs of the genuineness of his piety is, first, that he now supports his widowed mother and is instrumental in making her and family a happy home; and next, he is a stern reprover in the factory.

Two girls also have greatly benefited by our Night School, and not only in a secular way, but they have also received spiritual benefit. E. H., a girl of seventeen, is just leaving us for service. She had been useful for some time as a tract distributor, and a short time since a Bible was given her as a token of esteem and affection, on which occasion we had the happiness of your company. A. G., a poor factory girl, another gem of grace, now leads the singing and takes an active part in work among the children.

The above are some, and praise God we have others. I persisted in holding a Prayer Meeting after school, to which sometimes a dozen or fifteen have remained, and all have proved it a great blessing, and to this humble persistent waiting on the Lord and earnest pleading for souls I in a great measure attribute the most successful season of night school work we have had.

Yours sincerely, H. White.

Sarah Wood.

Mr. George Hoon, who has for many years been the indefatigable superintendent of the Ragged School, John Street, Kingsland (and also a Member of the Parent Committee), reports some interesting particulars concerning Sarah Wood, who for several years was a scholar in this school. Having left for a time, she returned in 1879, and for the three following years her attendance was irregular, but for the last five years of her life she attended constantly, unless prevented by illness. It was her privilege to be blessed with two loving and devoted teachers, who gladly strove to impart the truths of God's word, to which she listened with marked attention and interest. Their efforts, together with the general influence of the school, under Divine influence, soon led her to accept Christ as her Saviour. Her great spiritual change was progressive; her mind in the early stages was harassed with doubts and fears; her own words, "I am but a trembling, doubting Christian, and am trusting in the dark," were expressive of her condition. But gradually she was brought into the light of day, and saw and knew Jesus. This translation out of the kingdom of darkness into God's marvellous light fitted her to pass uncomplainingly through the furnace of affliction. The fiery trial was a protracted one, which she endured with magnanimity and patience.

Those who gathered about her sick bed from time to time found her bright and joyous and anxious for the coming change. She had a desire to depart and to be with Christ; she was at times a little impatient. Her prayer was "Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly." The end came in this wise: Between two and three o'clock of the day on which she died she said good-bye to those about her, bidding them meet her in heaven, sent a message of love to her fellow-scholars, and then sang "Safe in the arms of Jesus, Safe on His gentle breast." Finally at her request "Good night" was sung to her, and while uttering some rapturous expressions she passed into the presence and joy of her Lord.

In Memoriam.

MRS. ELIZABETH JANE ROWAN.

After a protracted and painful illness, borne with great fortitude, patience, and resignation, Mrs. Elizabeth Jane Rowan, the beloved wife of Archibald Hamilton Rowan, secretary of Dove Row Sunday and Ragged Schools, was taken, as she prayed to be, by Jesus on the 2nd July, 1887.

Her remains were laid to rest in Abney Park Cemetery on Saturday, 9th July, in the presence of many friends connected with the school, and others whom sympathy and love for the departed one and the bereaved had called together.

Mrs. Rowan when in health in many ways aided the work carried on at Dove Row until intense suffering precluded her from doing so. Of her it may truly be said, "She rests from her labours."

FOX COURT.—ERRATUM.

By an oversight Mrs. instead of Mr. Fagg was inserted in the July number in the short notice of the presentation to the Queen of a monogram quilt at Buckingham Palace on Jubilee Day.

MERRY AND WISE.

LECTURES to the people are so often merry and not wise, or wise and not merry, that we are happy in presenting the following scrap as an indication of their happy union. The same gentleman some few years ago delivered an admirable address to the prize scholars at the great annual gathering in May. The Rev. C. W. Grundy, at St. Mary's Parochial Hall, Newington, some time since gave a familiar talk on the streets of London. He said those who lived in London invariably knew little about it, for people, as a rule, knew little about the place they lived in. They did not go to see the Tower of London every day, nor the British Museum, nor the National Gallery—they took a great deal for granted. He (the lecturer) was not a Londoner, but from that very fact, perhaps, he knew more of it than those who actually lived in it. There was one person to whom Londoners were very partial he had not seen—and that was the Queen. He recollected some time since being in the second-class waiting-room of the York station. He always travelled third-class, and ate second. He purchased one of those wonderful pork pies with which they were probably acquainted. Having bought it, like a true Englishman he was determined to eat it. It was a matter which required some courage, but he had just got his teeth into a piece of gristle, when a porter came up and said, "The Queen is passing on her way to Scotland." But having determined to get through the pie, he missed the Queen, and that was the nearest he had ever been to seeing her Majesty. Referring to the poor of London, the lecturer said there were 90,000 people kept out of the rates. If all the beerhouses and public-houses could be put together, they would reach a distance of sixty-two miles. He sometimes told people that was an enormous amount of thirst. Fancy a man sixty-two miles thirsty! Referring to the fact that births and deaths were an important feature of London life, the lecturer said it was supposed by many persons that baby-farming had altogether ceased; but that was a mistake. It was carried on, however, under an improved system. The Rochester Diocesan Society had a little nursing home for babies, where twenty-three mothers deposited twenty-three babies regularly every morning. The mothers usually went out charing. He had never been able to discover with precision what "charing" meant. He could give them just a remote idea on the subject, however. They had to turn up their sleeves, look very busy, dust the parlour, clean the knocker and the doorstep, and make themselves generally useful. They then receive one and sixpence, twopence for beer money, a couple of candle ends, and a rasher of bacon. Well, these mothers always left the children in the morning, but he had

never yet heard whether they always got back the same babies in the evening. He did not think that mattered, because from his study of the sex he was inclined to say that so long as a mother had a baby, it was all right. At any rate, whether they did so or no, he thought it was a good thing they possessed such an institution as the Rochester Nursery, for by its aid the mother could earn wherewith to keep the wolf from the door. Mr. Grundy then gave some humorous imitations of street arabs, and in doing so referred to the newspaper boy, the vesuvian and "flamer" boy, and the shoeblack brigade. Manchester had just passed a resolution against these children being allowed to sell anything in the streets after dark. He hoped the same resolution would soon be passed in London. London possessed 12,000 cabmen, and every day £10,000 was spent on cab fares. Out of this number, 1,000 were teetotalers and 500 communicants. So don't let them think so badly of cabmen. As a boy, he used to think they were all bad men, because they wore very long coats and very red noses. His opinion of "cabby" had, however, considerably improved. The lecturer gave some amusing imitations of the costermonger, cheap Jacks, and other itinerant salesmen. Turning to the need for alteration in London, the lecturer said the first thing needful was improved habitations; the second, good wives. They wanted wives who could keep their husbands at home.

QUOTATIONS THAT INSPIRE.

Two "Quiver" Heroes.

Two additional *Quiver* bronze medals have recently been awarded—one to Engineer John Hunt, of the Manchester Fire Brigade, and one to Benjamin Wall, a porter at the Truro railway station. Hunt was at a fire in Portland Street, Manchester, when his attention was directed to a man at a window on the sixth floor of the building, who was calling loudly for help. Hunt at once seized a life-line, and, with an assistant, passed through the adjoining warehouse, and made his way on to the roof of the building on fire. He then climbed on to the parapet and lowered the line, but the dense smoke and fierce heat made it a difficult matter to ascertain the exact position of the window at which the man in danger was standing. At last, however, Hunt was successful, and felt the man grasp the line. He then made the rope fast to a chimney-stack, and, with the aid of his assistant, lowered the man within reach of the fire-escape, where he was received in a fainting condition, and conveyed in safety to the ground. A feat like this involved great courage and coolness on Hunt's part, and we are

proud to number him among the recipients of our medals. The circumstances attending Benjamin Wall's heroism were of a very different nature, but the same intrepidity was displayed. A woman was crossing the line at the Great Western Railway Station at Truro, and was about half-way across, when a fast train was seen approaching. On discovering her danger she appears to have lost all presence of mind, and in spite of the cries of the onlookers, stood still right in front of the train, now close upon her. Wall was the porter in charge of the crossing, and, without a second's delay, he rushed on to the line, seized the woman, and dragged her from her perilous position, falling with her just between the up and down rails. The gallant act was rendered the more praiseworthy by the fact that one of Wall's wrists was partially disabled at the time. We are depending on the kindness of our readers to contribute to the cost of these extra medals, as we feel sure they will not wish us to pass over the cases just recorded. Who will help us?—*The Quiver*.

Notices of Books.

Messrs. Shaw and Co., 48, Paternoster Row.

The Bible Searching Almanack for 1888. 1d.

We are glad to see a renewed issue of this most useful almanack, and we admire it none the less because the good idea has found imitators. One great want of the day is Bible-searching, and we would strongly recommend Mr. Gedge's simple book to all Sunday and Ragged School teachers, and particularly those who have Bible-classes or influence with the senior scholars of our schools. There is a short text given for each day, and a space blank for the reference to be found without the aid of a concordance.

The Religious Tract Society, Paternoster Row, London.

"*Dibs*," *a Story of Young London Life*. Price 1s. 6d.

The writer states that this simple story is an attempt to set forth the irresistible influence of the true Spirit of Jesus Christ over the life of a wild and wayward boy of the London streets, who had in him true and clear grit of character, with a spark of real genius of song. The story is well told, is of unflagging interest, and rich in pathos; will make an admirable addition to the home or the school library.

GEORGE STONEMAN, 67, Paternoster Row.

Recollections of Winter in the Sunny South. Ruin and Rescue. Fairy Flowers and Fairy Florists. Fatherly Hints for the Young.

Are all deserving the notice of Sunday School teachers and parents, who are sometimes at a loss for inexpensive and yet very entertaining reward books.

The Manual of Bible History. By the late Charles Baker.

If all the other manuals are equal to this in intelligence and wise teaching, we would not only strongly recommend this one, but all the set. *Multum in parvo* is a distinguishing characteristic.

The First Report of Dr. John Francis Churchill's Free Stoichiological Dispensary for Consumption, &c., of 99, *Marylebone Road, London, W.*, has just been issued, and may be had gratis on application. It is a report worthy the attention of all persons interested in the removal of this scourge of humanity.

CASSELL AND CO.

The *Quiver* maintains its reputation as a first-class serial for Sunday reading.

Notices of Meetings.

LAMB AND FLAG SCHOOLS. — PRESENTATION OF PRIZES.

Some short time since a most interesting meeting was held in the lecture hall of the City Temple, which was presided over by J. C. Sherrard, Esq., J.P. The large room was well filled with elder scholars and prize-takers, together with parents and friends. The prizes were distributed by the chairman, and addresses were given by Captain Sherrard, R.E., Mr. Hawley, and Mr. R. J. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, to the prize-takers. The excellent band of the institute gave a selection of music. The meeting was a success, and the prize-takers and elder scholars, who mustered in good numbers, reflected great credit on Mr. Bray and his coadjutor, Mr. Jeffs.

The annual outing to Theydon Bois took place in July; 614 of the elder scholars and their teachers had a hearty welcome from their friend Mr. Sherrard. About 100 infants took tea, by the kind permission of the Benchers of Gray's Inn, in the school house, and afterwards played in the gardens, where races for toys and other amusements were provided. Two hundred and fourteen of the old people had a happy day at Hendon, and some few of the children have had a fortnight each at the Ragged School Union Holiday Homes.

FLOWER SHOWS AND FLOWER SERVICES.

Several Flower Services have been held, among which that of the King Edward Schools was conspicuous. The gifts of flowers from the Prince of Wales and other members of the Royal Family, &c., were as numerous as on former occasions. At the three services on the Sabbath each scholar and parent received a bunch of flowers, and on the Monday the sick poor of the neighbourhood were each presented with a bouquet. Suitable addresses were given on the occasion—that in the evening by Mr. C. J. Montague was from the text, "Consider the lilies," which was thoughtful and pertinent.

Marigold Place, Bermondsey, and Lansdowne Place, Tabard Street, Southwark, were also noteworthy among others in producing a genuine display. The children, in circumstances unfavourable to the growth and beauty of their pets, had in both cases brought to maturity a variety of plants and flowers, such as the nasturtium, geranium, fuchsia, lobelia, and other plants, all of which evidenced great care on the part of the youthful floriculturists. To bring in nearly 300 plants from the neighbouring narrow streets, courts, and alleys, is no mean task. The prizes distributed to the successful competitors were writing-cases, inkstands, workboxes, &c.

It has been well said that those who profess a spark of philanthropy must rejoice in the efforts put forth in favour of inducing Slumland inhabitants to grow flowering plants, and though the results may be small from a florist's standpoint, yet the collateral effects will encourage the effort.

LANSDOWNE PLACE—PRESENTATION TO THE SUPERINTENDENT, MR. F. PASSMORE.

The arduous post of superintendent having been held by Mr. F. Passmore seven years, as a testimony of the high esteem in which he is held by his co-workers, advantage was taken of a large gathering of teachers and friends recently held in the Pastors' College building (Rev. C. H. Spurgeon's) to make a presentation, which consisted of three finely executed engravings, and a handsomely illuminated card, bearing an address expressive of affection and esteem, and signed by all the teachers and workers. The gentlemen who took part in this pleasing ceremony were Mr. F. Fisher, hon. secretary, and Mr. Fern, the teacher of longest standing. Mr. F. Passmore, quite taken by surprise, responded with a hearty expression of thanks.

TAKING TIME BY THE FORELOCK.

Fox Court had a gathering of workers on Tuesday, 13th September, to forecast the business of the coming session. Mr. R. J. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, presided. Mr. Fagg made a detailed statement respecting the operations to be conducted, making by the way some wise suggestions, and dwelling with emphasis on any part of the work requiring to be strengthened. One or two letters were read from absent friends, expressing their intention to continue their part of the work. An appeal for workers, especially for the Sunday night, was happily responded to in a way to justify a belief that this work, the importance of which was so strongly insisted on by W.

Beechcroft, Esq., will be greatly strengthened this winter. Sewing Classes, Singing Classes, Infant, Day, and Week-evening Schools, Lectures and Entertainments, Sunday Night School, Mothers' Meetings, Dorcas Society, Gymnasium, Bible Classes, &c., were all marked as part of the winter programme.

MARIGOLD PLACE, BERMONDSEY,

held its Workers' Meeting on Friday evening, September 16th, to forecast the work of the coming session, and a goodly company was present. Mr. J. Menzies presided. The Hon. J. Lawrence and Mr. J. Vesey were absent from unavoidable causes. Mr. Hodges, hon. sec., stated the object of the meeting, and Mr. Menzies, who was warmly received, dwelt with considerable force and pathos on the great need of strengthening the band of helpers, especially on the pressing want of a superintendent and more workers for the Sunday Night School. This is a large and difficult part of the work owing to the numbers that attend, and the class, being somewhat disorderly, require very wise handling. Mr. R. J. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, gave some hints and advice on the occasion. A Youths' Institute, Penny Bank, Band of Hope, Entertainments, Mothers' Meeting, an efficient Day School, Breakfasts and Dinners to needy children, &c., do eminent service in a poor neighbourhood. Special mention was made of the kind help and sympathy given by the Rev. Mr. Farran, Congregational minister. It was resolved to use the local press and appeal to the different religious bodies for voluntary helpers.

CASTLE LANE YOUTHS' INSTITUTE, NEAR JAMES STREET, BUCKINGHAM GATE, S.W.

Mr. S. M. Cousins, managing secretary, states that the last session was a very prosperous one. 171 members joined, as compared with 115 the previous year, and the average attendance rose from twenty-five in 1885-6 to forty-one in 1886-7. The total cost of the session 1885-6 was £84, which rose to £103 last year. A most encouraging feature was the increase in subscriptions; whereas the members' payments in 1886 amounted to £9, the sum received in 1887 was over £20. There was also a marked improvement in tone and general conduct. The educational classes were not so successful as could be wished. The Musical Drill has proved a great "draw." The Ambulance Class was well attended. A Bible Class is to be added this winter, and a Provident Fund started. The Swimming Club has kept the members together during the summer months. We hope to reopen on Monday, 26th September, when any sympathisers with our work on behalf of the lads will be cordially welcome. We shall be very pleased to receive as members any working lads or young men between the ages of fourteen and twenty-one.

CAMBERWELL MISSION, FORMERLY NELSON STREET RAGGED SCHOOL,

had a most successful Harvest Festival on the 25th September. The large room was fairly filled by an interested congregation. Presents of fruits, flowers, and vegetables were received, and the whole displayed in a tasteful manner.

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The following sums have been received in aid of the Ragged School Union, from the 20th of June, 1887, to the 19th of September, 1887, inclusive :—

General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Adams, Mrs. Jane	2	4	0
Allen, Thos., Esq.	0	5	0
Alpha	100	0	0
An Old Teacher	1	0	0
Anonymous	0	2	6
Baly, Wm., Esq.	0	10	0
Bannatyne, Neil, Esq.	3	3	0
Batho, J. E., Esq.	1	0	0
Benn, John, Esq.	0	5	0
Blennerhassett, F. Esq.	1	1	0
Brown, W. C., Esq.	1	1	0
Craven, Dowr. Lady	1	1	0
Candwell, Job, Esq., F.R.S.L.	1	0	0
Chalk, Mrs.	2	2	0
Chamberlin, Miss	0	4	6
Chance, Mrs.	2	0	0
Churchill, Melville, Esq.	1	0	0
Coats, Messrs. J. & P.	3	0	0
Cotgreave, Miss	1	0	0
Courthorpe, W. F., Esq	5	0	0
Crosbie, Wm., Esq.	1	1	0
Cunliffe, John, Esq.	5	0	0
Davis, John, Esq.	10	0	0
Day, Mrs. J.	1	0	0
E. G. B.	0	10	0
Flint, Rev. G. S.	4	0	0
Fothergill, Miss.	2	0	0
Gordon, Miss M.	5	0	0
Graves, Mrs.	1	1	0
Green, Mrs.	0	3	6
Green, Rev. A.	1	1	0
Gripper, Fredk., Esq..	3	3	0
Grover, Mrs.	0	5	0
Hanson, Mrs.	1	0	0
Hawkins, Miss S.	1	0	0
Hicks, G. M., Esq.	2	2	0
Hilder, Thos. P., Esq.	1	1	0
Hughes, Mr. John & Miss M. A.	0	2	6
Hughes, W. Hughes, Esq.	2	2	0
Huish, Mrs.	1	0	0
Irish Friend	0	10	0
Jones, Mrs.	1	0	0
Knowles, Mrs.	1	0	0
Lockhart, Lady Macdonald	0	10	0
Lafone, Miss	1	0	0
Lawrence, Sir A.	2	0	0
Leicester Ragged School, per H. Lawrence, Esq.	0	10	6
Lewis, R. E., Esq.	1	1	0
Livesey, Geo., Esq.	20	0	0
Lorkin, The Misses	2	0	0
MacCallum, Miss	1	0	0
Magrath, Miss	0	10	0
Molyneux, Miss	5	0	0
Monnery, E. J., Esq.	5	0	0
Montague, C., Esq.	2	2	0
Moody, Miss S.	1	0	0
Morton, F. B., Esq.	1	1	0
M. E.	2	0	0
Newcome, Miss	1	0	0
Newman, J. H., Esq.	0	10	0
Nicholson, Messrs. Jno. and Sons	1	1	0
Owen, Mrs.	0	2	0
Paskin, The Misses	0	5	0
Payne, J., Esq.	5	5	0
Priaulx, Miss	0	5	0
Price, Mrs. Admiral	5	0	0
Protheroe, Mrs. C.	2	2	0
Rawlence, James, Esq.	1	0	0
Readers of "Christian" per Morgan & Scott	18	12	6
Ricardo, Mrs. D.	0	10	6
Rowlandson, Lt.-Col.	2	2	0
Russell, G. W., Esq.	0	5	0
Shakerley, Dow. Lady	20	0	0
Senhouse, Rev. S. Minton	1	1	0
Smith, R., Esq.	0	5	0
Smyth, Mrs.	0	10	6
Sturge, George, Trust Fund	160	0	0
Teague, Geo. F., Esq.	1	0	0
Threlfall, Chas., Esq.	2	2	0
Tritton, G. Sinclair, Esq.	5	0	0
Walford, Mrs.	2	10	0
Wedgwood, Miss	1	0	0
Wilson, Samuel, Esq.	0	5	0
Wooster, J. R., Esq.	5	0	0
W. H. W.	0	10	0

Holiday Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Archibald, Lady	0	10	6
Appleyard, Mrs.	0	5	0
Arkcoll, Miss	3	3	0
A Friend	5	0	0
A Friend	0	10	0
A Friend	0	2	6
A. M.	0	5	0
Anonymous	6	19	1
A Servant, per Miss Buffett	0	1	0
Astrea	1	0	0
Baird, Miss	1	0	0
Ballard, Mrs.	2	0	0
Bax, A. Ridley, Esq.	2	0	0
Beeching, Alfd. H., Esq.	1	0	0
Bennet, Rev. W.	0	2	6
Binsteed, Mr. and Mrs.	10	0	0
Bird, Miss	0	2	6
Bourne, Mr. and Mrs. Alfd.	2	0	0
Brophy, Miss	0	5	0
Brown, Miss Eliz.	2	0	0
Brown, W. C., Esq.	0	10	6
Burton, Hy., Esq.	0	15	0
Calder, Mrs.	5	0	0
Callender, H. W., Esq.	1	0	0
Carter, Miss	1	1	0
Champneys, A. C., Esq.	0	10	0
Chance, Geo., Esq.	0	10	0
Channel, Mr. E. C.,	0	1	7
Children of St. John's Schools, Godalming, as a thankoffering for their own treat, per Rev. Charles E. Cooper	0	12	0
Cholmondeley, Mrs.	1	0	0
Christian, C. L., Esq.	1	1	0
Clements, Mrs., coll.	0	10	0
Cochrane, Mrs.	2	0	0
Collected at St. Matthew's, Red Hill, per R. F. Gedge, Esq.	4	10	0
Collected by a Little Boy, Cardiff	0	2	0
Collected by Sunday School Children, per W. H. Solly, Esq.	9	15	10
Collins, Miss	0	1	0
Cornish, Miss	2	2	0
Courthorpe, W. F., Esq.	2	2	0
Cramphorn, Miss	0	5	0
Crisp, The Misses	5	0	0
Croft, Wm., Esq.	0	10	0
Crook, Miss	0	5	0
Cross, W. M., Esq.	5	0	0
Cust, Miss	1	0	0
C. P.	0	8	0
Dale, Miss	5	0	0
Davidson, Miss M. A.	0	7	6
Davies, Miss	1	0	0
Davis, Miss	1	0	0
Day, Mrs. J.	0	10	0
Denny, T. A., Esq.	5	0	0
De Vear, Rev. and Mrs. Walter	0	5	0
Douglas, Earle L., Esq.	1	0	0
Dyke, Mrs.	1	1	0
Delta	2	2	0
Edwards, Thos. J., Esq.	0	10	0
Elliston, Mr. and Mrs. W. L.	0	5	0
Evans, Miss E.	2	0	0
Ewing, Mrs.	2	8	0
Fair, John, Esq.	5	5	0
Five hundred children in Bushey Park	50	0	0
Fisher, Mrs.	0	2	0
Frost, Miss	0	5	0
F. C. G.	0	5	0
F. V.	0	5	0
Gawn, Mrs.	0	7	6
Gervis, Fredk. H., Esq.	1	1	0
Gillham, Geo. F., Esq.	2	2	0
Gilmore, Miss	5	0	0
Goad, Messrs. F. & Son	0	5	0
Green, Mrs.	0	2	0
G. W. G.	0	2	6
Hansell, R. G., Esq.	0	10	6
Hardy, Mrs.	1	0	0
Harvey, C., Esq.	0	10	0
Harris, Mrs	0	1	0
Hawkins, C. H., Esq.	0	2	6
Hawley, Henry, Esq.	0	5	0

Continued on opposite page.

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